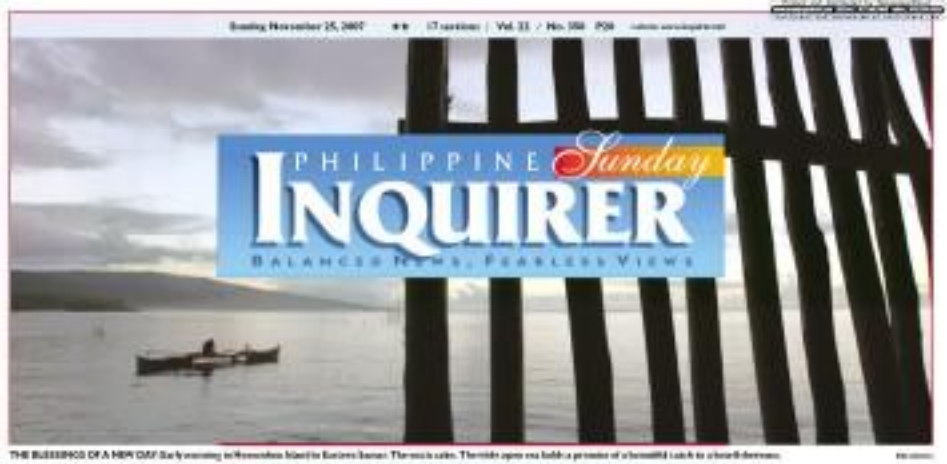
Sunday, November 25, 2007 | Vol. 33 / No. 350 | P20

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



THE BLESSINGS OF A NEW DAY Early morning in Nonoc Island in Surigao Sur. The sea is calm. The tricycle upon sea holds a promise of a beautiful catch to a hard-working...

Typhoon spares Bicol

Ateneo graduates in 5 years MDs with MBAs

By Ma. Cielo P. Dayo

A MEDICAL DOCTOR WHO IS ALSO an MBA?

The idea may not be so far-fetched in Cavite years. Up to now the Ateneo de Manila University will graduate the first batch of medical doctors who will not only be leaders but managers and leaders as well.

The quintessential "person for others" that the Jesuit-run institution has been molding and offering to the world will now be taking on a more demanding contemporary role.

He or she will be filling a challenging job description and rescuing us in countries that outlast generations of dictators, as we that matter electors produced by other universities, had not secured for.

The Ateneo opened this year the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH), taking in the first batch of 70 would-be doctor-managers-leaders.

"The state of medical education in the Philippines is that most, if not all, medical schools define themselves as institutions to prepare their students to be doctors," said ASMPH dean Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, a neurologist and a former health secretary who has a reputation in business administration himself.

Bengzon believes doctors should

SPREAD A21

'Mina' lingers at sea, veers north to Aurora, Quezon

By Alexis Pupa, TJ Burgonio, Ephraim Aguilan and Jaymar Gaerlan

WHAT WAS FEARED TO BE "SUPERTYPHOON MINA" changed course early yesterday and veered toward the provinces of Aurora and Quezon, appearing to have spared the Bicol region.

At noon, around 94,000 evacuees from coastal villages and flood-prone areas in Albay province were given the go-signal to return to their homes.

With the 11 a.m. weather bulletin showing little change in Mina's course, the Albay Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council issued an advisory to local government units and disaster coordinating councils telling them to send the evacuees home.

The credibility of Pagasa's forecasts was once again questioned after it reported a change in that typhoon's track.

At a media briefing yesterday morning at the Office of Civil Defense in Camp Gen. Simeon Ola, Albay Gov. Joey Salceda expressed his continued faith in the weather bureau.

But he said he was strongly recommending the upgrade of Pagasa's forecasting equipment. (See "What went wrong" on Page A6.)

Mina intermittently roars. Mirag, still packing maximum winds of 175 kilometers per hour and gustiness of up to 210 kph, changed track and nestled from west to southwest at around 5 a.m., heading straight for northern Luzon.

It was forecast to make landfall between Aurora and Isabela tonight. Based on its earlier track, it was expected to hit Catanduanes last night.

"The change in track was an offshoot of its interaction with Typhoon Lando." Since Lando exited in the west, Mina tended to move northward," Pagasa weather forecaster Christopher Perez said in a phone interview.

Perez said Mina had "yielded into a weak drifting movement."

"That's why it was almost stationary

TYPHOON A6

Fe del Mundo: Her children's hospital is 50 as she turns 96

By Vik Conrado

FE DEL MUNDO—RENOWNED pediatrician, true humanist, educator, author, inventor and owner of a dream most outdoctors by another decree but that of a 27-year-old—still sees patients at the Quezon City hospital she established half a century ago.

She sees needs a wheelchair, however, but the diminutive dokterat Ramon Magsaysay Awardee with a heart as big as Bataan still goes her daily rounds anytime soon—not even after she turns 96 on Sunday.

The Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, which is marking its 50th anniversary also on Sunday, has found up a program of activities that will kick off today and culminate on its founder's birthday.

As part of the celebration, a video documentary of Del Mundo's lifework will be shown—an effort to sum up her achievements and milestones were she graduated valedictorian from the University of the Philippines' College of Medicine in 1935.

The latest of many tributes many sites out on certain things, as Del Mundo has countably gained her own level of service and expertise about the first neonatal incubator, aids as a National Scientist Awardee (1990), a Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service (1977) and an Elizabeth Blackwell Award (1990).

The Magsaysay is the Asian version of the Nobel Prize. The

SCIENTIST A11

PIONEERING PEDIATRICIAN—still active in her hospital founded on Banawe Street, QC. In desperation, Dr. Fe del Mundo takes her ex-machine and kids and learns on her "clinical eye" and skills. Main...

Divers plant giant clams underwater

By TJ Burgonio

MASBATE, Batangas—LOCAL FISHERmen weren't around to see the giant clams gently "planted" on coral the seabed but in a few years, they will benefit from the clams' garden with a bigger harvest of fish.

Under overcast skies, divers plunged into the calm seas off the picturesque islands of Ilocanga in Dapaot Bay, and gingerly embedded giant clams from their boat, to place them on the seabed last Wednesday.

By noon, a total of 102 clams had been planted among the coral reefs.

"They're like babies," Ami Lacsa, CEO of BH Investments Corp. (BHIC), said as he watched—from another boat—a diver

DIVERS A6

PLANTING CLAMS IS SO MUCH FUN, says Dave Valdez of World Wide Fund-Philippines before going down to the seabed 10 feet under water at Pico de Loro Cove in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Donita brings Christmas to Read-Along kids

By Schaia Quadrado
Inquirer Research

CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY FOR THE children who attended yesterday's Inquirer Read-Along at television host and actress Donita Rose read the story of the Nativity, recounting the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and of Jesus' birth in a manger.

The fun-filled session went 11 year-old Camille Rose Montero and teacher Ella Regina Gonzaga lavish who interpreted stories on what it takes to win life's struggles.

The book "The Birth of Jesus," as re-

DONITA A6

Hello? GMA calls Ilugao gov, gets wrong number

By Alexis Pupa

EVERYBODY IS ENTITLED TO ONE wrong phone. But President of the Philippines can still dial the wrong number.

During yesterday's condemnation

WRONG A6

JOB
Build your future with us

SUNDAY BIZ / B4
'Tis the best Christmas in 20 years: Thanks to dollars from OFWs, according to retailers expecting lushly green holidays

SUNDAY MAGAZINE
Confessions of easy rider Randy David: Not easy to explain motorcycle driving; this south of deviance and danger that gives texture to our out-linear lives

LIFESTYLE / C1
Some enchanted evening with Tessa Valdes is Hollywood and McCreeny

LIFESTYLE / F1
Isabel Preysler: An exclusive with one of the world's most beautiful

A1
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2007

WEATHER FORECAST

Second
FRONTPAGE

6/42
SIX DIGIT
31 13 2 3 9 1 6 1
6/45 LUZON/VIS-MIN
6 11 2 19 40 41
7 3 6 4 7 1
P4,683,628.80

Prelate calls for moral change

Return what you stole, CBCP head tells government officials

WHAT'S INSIDE

JEEPNEY drivers set protests Monday /A5

LET PEOPLE share in mining wealth—Atienza /A9

BUKIDNON tillers continue march on Palace /A9

THE LEADER OF THE COUNTRY'S bishops has challenged government officials to "do a Zacchaeus" and give away ill-gotten possessions to the poor.

Amid the unresolved allegations of corruption against the Arroyo administration, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, in his blog yesterday, called for a moral transformation among those in public office, saying the faithful were in search of "people who would be humble, courageous and decided enough to do a Zacchaeus."

In the Bible, Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector who climbed a sycamore tree so he could make out the figure of Jesus in a huge crowd. According to the story, Jesus asked the hated tax collector to come down from the tree as he intended to visit his house. This gesture led to Zacchaeus' repentance and his vow to make restitution for his sins.

"Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount," Zacchaeus told Jesus.

Lagdameo, the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said that like Zacchaeus, the whole country needs a moral transformation.

"So is response in the case of moral bankruptcy in public life, of probably irremediable loss of credibility and trust, a call has been made for moral revolution," he said.

Lagdameo said the Church's social doctrine teaches that socioeconomic issues have moral implications because there is a "necessary, intrinsic and reciprocal" relationship between morality, economics and poverty.

He mentioned the allegations of political bribery, the Ghostbusting and Hacienda Luisita that killed and injured many, and the questionable multimillion-peso government projects as the issues that are crying out for resolution and closure.

He also expressed support for the various calls for moral recovery sounded by religious and civil society groups as their response to the "list of unresolved cases of social, economic and political concerns that keep piling up."

"We are consoled by the fact that some of our public officials and different sectors of civil society are seeing such a need for a moral revolution. May this attitude prevail ... may the number of good-willed people increase," Lagdameo said.

Last month, the CBCP in a statement of its permanent council urged the Arroyo administration, called the government morally bankrupt amid allegations of corruption in the National Broadband Network deal with the China-based ZTE Corp. and alleged Palace payoffs to local government officials to maintain support for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lagdameo said that even before the October statement on moral bankruptcy in government, the CBCP had long been calling for moral reform in government.

"And we would like to say it again, both long now, but the reader may be," he said.

Beverly T. Natividad

This time, EU hails GMA for call to free Suu Kyi

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) lauded President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's call for Burma's military rulers to release Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent 10 of the past 18 years under house arrest.

The EU, which had earlier commended the Arroyo administration for its failure to put a stop to extrajudicial killings in the country, this time supported the President's call for the prompt release of the Burmese freedom fighter and democracy icon.

A 14-man EU parliamentary delegation visiting the Philippines called on Ms Arroyo Friday in Malacañang to express its support for the President's forceful position on the need for democratic reforms in Burma (Myanmar).

Ms Arroyo made the call during a dinner on Wednesday with leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) who had gathered in Singapore for their annual summit.

"We support very strongly your call for the release of Suu Kyi," said Hartmut Nassauer of Germany, head of the EU delegation, during a meeting with the President in Malacañang's Music Room.

He said his group "respects your firm stand" on Suu Kyi's release and the President's exhortation to Burma's ruling junta to return to the path of democracy.

Sweden Simmons, the members of the delegation were Ambassador Alfonso MacDonald (envoy of the EU to the Philippines), Ambassador Irene Beckingham and Glyn Ford (United Kingdom), Isabelle Faivre, Jean and Csaba Ory (Hungary), Jiri-rony Cmkowski (Poland), Jules Maaten (the Netherlands), Jean-Pierre Audy (France), Giovanna Corda (Belgium) and Barbara Weiler (Germany).

In response, the President said she was "glad" the delegation supported her stand on the Burma issue.

She said she had to rush back to the Philippines Thursday, a day before the four-day summit was to end, to personally oversee government relief operations in the areas battered by Typhoon "Lando."

The EU delegation also cited the Philippines for being the only country in Asia which has abolished the death penalty and congratulated the President for taking steps to stem the tide of political and media killings.

They, however, informed Ms Arroyo that the European press had been decrying media-related killings in the Philippines than in reports on the country's improving economy.

The President, in turn, disclosed the latest developments in the prosecution of suspects in extrajudicial killings.

There have been six convictions so far and 12 cases are being tried, she reported.

"Two other cases, she added, were in the "advanced stages of prosecution."

She explained that while she wanted the trial of the suspects in the extrajudicial killings to proceed speedily, 26 cases were "stuck" because the supposed victims—members of the NPA—refused to be witnesses in the investigation.

"They simply want to condemn the government for the killings," she said.

The President also informed the EU delegation that she had created a Committee on Human Rights and the Media Commission to dig deeper into cases of political killings. *With a report from Donna Pazzibugan*

ABADIA'S TESTIMONY:

Testimonial of Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia (ret.) after taking Boston C within one hour

Previous History

I discovered I had Type 2 Diabetes 2 years ago with my blood sugar level reaching more than 200. Medication was prescribed to control sugar level – a combination of Sotasa and Metformin. Since the start of the medication, my blood sugar level is going up and down during the day.

First Encounter with Boston C

When I read in the Phil. Daily Inquirer a one page advertisement regarding herbal anti-cancer and anti-diabetes drugs, I took time out to visit Mr. Ishy Aguste in 229 Macopa St., Barangay Maligaya, San Miguel, Tarlac City.

I was given on the spot medications, 3 glasses of Boston C.

- My initial blood sugar level was = 0
- 15 minutes after drinking one glass = 8.8
- 15 minutes after drinking one glass = 7.0
- 15 minutes after drinking one glass = 6.4

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Pinoy crew safe

ALL 41 FILIPINO crew members of the Canadian cruise ship, the MV Explorer, that sank in the Antarctic have been rescued and are safe, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

DFA spokesperson Claro Cristobal said the Philippine embassies in London and Oslo reported that the Filipinos—six women and 35 men—were rescued along with the rest of the crew and all 61 passengers of the Explorer and taken to a Chilean air base on King George Island by the Norwegian ship, Nordnorge. *(See story in The World, Page A24.)*

Secretary Alberto Romulo directed Philippine ambassador to Chile Consuelo Perez-Reyes to provide assistance to the rescued Filipinos.

Cynthia Balana

Atienza, Drilon in talks to unify Liberal Party

By Nicanor Cabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Norman Bordadora

BAGUIO CITY—ENVIRONMENT Secretary Lito Atienza, who heads a pro-administration faction of the Liberal Party, has begun backroom negotiations with former Sen. Franklin Drilon to unify the party behind a single standard-bearer in the 2010 presidential election.

LP stalwart Eleazar Quinto, who came here with Atienza to grace this year's annual mining safety conference, confirmed that Atienza and Drilon resumed talks "only recently."

Both Atienza and Quinto said the 2010 presidential election was a "good opportunity" for the LP to reassert its political dominance.

Drilon, whose faction was reorganized by the Supreme Court after months of internal strife, also labored in the talks yesterday in a Quezon City forum. He said he had notified Atienza-faction members of the party's national executive committee meeting tomorrow to hand over the party's leadership to Sec. Mar Roxas—as he does here has for the presidency.

Good feedback

Roxas visited the city recently with barkers who entertained residents at the Baguio public market to lull behind a "Roxas for President" campaign.

Roxas has refused to comment about his aspirations.

The good feedback from Roxas' provincial visits has encouraged the LP factions to talk, Quinto said.

Long time coming

"It's been so long since the LP had a president in office. The last president we in elected was Diosdado Macapagal," Quinto said in Filipino. Macapagal, father of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was over Nacionalista Party candidate Carlos P. Garcia in 1961 on an antigraft platform.

Our members do not want to lose this chance so they are uniting every other... That's why this issue of our 4th should be addressed," he said.

Quinto said there was a possibility the administration coalition's bet for president may come from LP's pool of presidential candidates.

Which, however, remains to be discussed between the two factions.

Drilon said yesterday the LP will be a "stand-alone party" that may ally itself "with a coalition" instead of being made part of the coalition.

Drilon and other LP leaders appeared at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo forum to discuss how the party's meeting that would elect Roxas as the party president.

Drilon said, however, that the issue of who would be the vice presidential candidate of the party had yet to be discussed.

"We're open to alliances," the outgoing party leader said.

He said this was the case in the last elections when the LP allied itself with the United Opposition instead of being part of the anti-Erap alliance.

Appointed by Roxas

Roxas is now the executive vice president of the party.

The other officers, Drilon said, will be appointed by Roxas after he is elected head of the party.

"That of the reason that we are electing [that the party president is to give him the manner if he decides to run for president. He still have the full weight and support of the party," said former Education Secretary Florencio Abad, a former LP president.

Split into two

The LP party belonged to Ms Arroyo's coalition has split into two factions in the wake of the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal in 2005.

Drilon threw the LP behind the move to demand the resignation of the President.

Atienza and some other LP local leaders, however, rallied behind the beleaguered Ms Arroyo. Later, they held a "racing" session and "anointed" Drilon as party president.

The bid to prolonged factional strife in the party.

"I BELIEVE THAT IF YOU GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST THAT YOU CAN, THE BEST WILL ALWAYS COME BACK TO YOU. I HAVE DONE WHAT IS MINE TO DO. NOW IT IS YOUR TURN TO DO WHAT IS YOURS."

Fe del Mundo
DR. FE DEL MUNDO
Pioneer & Founder

DR. FE DEL MUNDO MEDICAL CENTER at 50: A New Horizon of Light & Legacy

Dr. Fe del Mundo has poured all her great soul into an undertaking so beset with difficulty its emergence from a vision into a reality seemed impossible. She has set her faith against hardship after hardship and overcome them all for the sake of her "beloved children."

This very gallant woman is still working against incredible handicaps, and succeeding. She does not cry out for help. But, the very nature and scope of her aspiration cry out to us in a voice that should not fail on an unsoaring heart nor an unhearing ear. It is a voice that cannot be denied.

Chester W. Nimitz
(As Navy Admiral,
Commander Pacific Fleet)

Warmest greetings to the men and women of the **Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, Inc.** as you celebrate your 50th Anniversary.

I commend you for your efforts to continue the advocacy of Dr. Fe del Mundo whose commitment to the promise of pediatrics is truly remarkable. Dr. Fe del Mundo has dedicated her life to research that has benefitted our people, especially the children, making her a National Scientist.

May this occasion further strengthen your commitment to provide the public with quality health services. For the past 50 years, the **Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, Inc.,** has been a reliable partner of government in ensuring a healthier and more productive citizenry.

Again, happy anniversary and Mabuhay hoping for!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

The highest star that illuminates the firmament of Philippine Pediatric Medicine is Dr. Fe del Mundo whose extraordinary career as pediatrician, scientist, educator, author, public servant, pioneer, and humanitarian spans a lifetime of more than nine and a half decades. Her story is told in the words of those who admire and love her, numerous national and international awards, and the medical center founded on her faith, prayers, sacrifices, and labor of love.

Dr. Fe del Mundo's vision-mission of providing excellent care for Filipino children, mothers' welfare, and contributions to her legacy to the health and wealth of our nation. This commitment will continue under the management of **Asian HealthCare/NTI** and the guidance of Divine Providence.

After 50 years, it is with great joy and hope that we celebrate the dawn of a new era of golden years of the hospital inspired by the living example of the light that shines in the heart of Dr. Fe del Mundo.

Elisa del Mundo Rengzon
ELISA DEL MUNDO RENGZON
Chairman of the Board
Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, Inc.

My warmest greetings to the officials and staff of the Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, Inc. as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, with the theme: **"Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center at 50: A New Horizon Built on FDM's Continuing Legacy".**

The support we have strived to extend as of the moment rule that play in shaping the future of children's footprint in the country. Providing quality health services to all, especially children, is still an indispensable factor in achieving sustainable progress and development. It is for this reason that we, in the health sector, must work together to strengthen this and enable our children to live healthy and productive lives.

The Department of Health commends your accomplishment as the country's first children's hospital in providing quality and affordable health care services. I wish you all a successful celebration.

Congratulations and mabuhay hoping for!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretary, Department of Health
Republic of the Philippines

Sixty four women became legends in their lifetime. Dr. Fe del Mundo is one of them. She has deeply touched the lives of thousands of our people. Early in her professional career, she gained recognitions and distinctions when she broke some of Harvard University's male-dominated traditions, earning for womenkind the respect and importance they deserve.

We are glad that a foundation has been established in her honor. Her legendary dedication and professional excellence should be inculcated to those who have embraced the medical profession.

We join our people in commemorating the 50th founding anniversary of the **Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation Philippines.**

Dr. Fe del Mundo has truly become an institution in the medical profession.

FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR.
Mayor, Quezon City
Republic of the Philippines

The **Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation** has been a pillar of the community it has served for 50 years. As it celebrates its Foundation Day, and the 36th birthday of its founder Dra. Fe del Mundo, the hospital reaffirms its commitment to deliver quality comprehensive healthcare to children and their families.

We at **Asian HealthCare/NTI** are proud and privileged to work hand-in-hand with Dra. Fe del Mundo, the physicians and medical staff. As we enter the 21st century, we see a re-invigorated Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center which will continue to promote and enhance the vision of its founder.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday, Dra. Fe del Mundo!

MONICO V. JACOB
Chairman of the Board
Asian HealthCare/NTI

Jeepney strikes set

OUTRAGED OVER THE HIGHER fuel price hikes, a militant jeepney drivers' association announced yesterday it would begin a series of protest marches, motorcade barrage and selective route strikes tomorrow in preparation for a general strike next month.

The Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston) said it would march from the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City to Mendiola, the street leading to Malacañang in Manila, starting at 1 p.m., to demand that three demands: That government restrict the oil price hikes, scrap the 12-percent value-added tax (VAT) on oil products, and repeal the Oil Deregulation Law.

Piston secretary-general George San Mateo said there would also be protest actions in various regional centers although the Bicol region unlike to be hit by the Concerted Driver's Operation for Reforms (Code-Drive Piston-Bicol) was cancelled due to the stormy weather.

He said the Bicol-based Tayabas Transport Service Organization for Reforms (Tsorer-Piston) would join. Bringing with its strike on selected routes in Legazpi and Batangas.

Up north, the Ilocos-Metro Baguio chapter will stage a rally and mass barrage at People's Park.

In Negros Occidental, the Federation of Negros Drivers Center (Federation) will hold a protest caravan, to be capped by a mass barrage at the Bacolod City Plaza.

In Cebu, there will be pickets by the Naghahiusang Drayber ug Inglus (Nadai-Piston) in front of all depots and government offices.

In Iloilo, there will be a rally and mass barrage by Piston-Iloilo in the city plaza. Aloa T. Ochoterena

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Globe

Typhoon spares Bicol

From page A1

by the past 12 hours," he said.

The incoming, the typhoon is forecast to be 210 km southeast of Legazpi City, Albay.

In its 5 p.m. bulletin yesterday, the weather bureau Pagasa said Mina remained almost stationary over the Philippine Sea, some 280 km east northeast of Virac, Catanduanes.

Signal No. 1 remained in effect over Catanduanes and Camarines Norte.

Camarines Sur, Albay, Quezon, Quirino, Aurora and Isabela were placed under Signal No. 2, while Kalinga, Apayao, Ifugao, Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Quezon, Laguna, Rizal, Batangas, Metro Manila, Cavite, Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Batangas, Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Bipon, Ifugao, Mountain Province and Cagayan remained under Signal No. 1.

But Mina is still expected to bring heavy rainfall to the Bicol region, Pagasa said.

"Within the next three days, the eastern parts of the Visayas and Luzon should expect moderate to heavy rains, with gusty winds in Bicol and northern Samar," he said.

In Legazpi City, Cedric Daep, executive officer of the Albay Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC), said around 70,000 persons who were evacuated from Bicol some weeks ago would be told to head to their homes "as soon as the typhoon is no longer in the province."

Irene Anthony Gobi, spokesperson of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and deputy administrator, also said Thursday that the typhoon could lead to heavy rains "and further unrest."

"Let's wait for the typhoon to leave the Philippine area of responsibility," he said in a news conference at Camp Aguinaldo.

Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. also said President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the "preemptive evacuation" of tens of thousands of residents of coastal and mountainous areas in Bicol and Quezon.

From said that "by Sunday, we should expect steady weather over northern Luzon, and moderate rain in the Bicol region."

On Monday, when the typhoon is already off the coast of Baler, Gma, it will be nearer to the Bicol region, with light to moderate rains in other parts of Luzon," he said.

Metro Manila will be cloudy with rain showers and occasional gusty winds.

Nine evacuations

Close to 180,000 people are set to be evacuated from coastal areas and riverbanks in Aurora and Isabela.

OCD administrator Glenn Rabonza said reports as of Friday that based on information from local officials, 54,000 people will be evacuated in Isabela and another 40,000 in Aurora.

Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca, who took a call from Mr Arroyo during a morning of the NDCC yesterday afternoon, said most of the evacuees were from the coastal areas of Palanan and Dinapigue towns.

Rabonza said preparations for Mina's coming were "very much complete despite the change of course. He said military units and search assets were likely to be affected by the typhoon's new path but have mobilized.

Mina has displaced more than 1,200 families in three provinces in the Bicol region.

Reports reaching the regional office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Eastern Visayas revealed that the displaced families, representing 5,018 persons, came from Catbalogan, Jiabong and Motiong towns in Northern Samar, Basey in Samar and Bilirán province.

At-risk residents

According to NDCC spokesperson Gobi, more than 300,000 residents in Bicol will have to remain in evacuation centers.

"The President has instructed the NDCC to take preventionary and preventive measures. Provincial governors have been alerted, and all contingency plans are in place," Gobi said.

He said Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., the NDCC chair, had relayed Mr Arroyo's instruction to regional disaster coordinating councils in Cagayan, Cordillera, Cagayan Valley, and Central and Southern Luzon, as well as the Armed Forces.

Gobi said the new round of evacuations would start with residents of coastal areas at risk from storm surges and gradually moving downslopes and on mountain slopes threatened by floods and landslides.

"The evacuation is taking place as of the moment ... We are looking at second tier of evacuation, just in case," he said, adding that government agencies as well as the AFP-Northern Luzon Command had been mobilized.

Pagasa director Prisco Nilo said the weather bureau had prepared two scenarios for Mina—one for the typhoon to go to the Bicol region, and the other that it would head for Aurora and Quirino. (*Inq, Bicol*)

2 weather systems

Nilo said a weakening high-pressure area northeast of the country sent Hong Kong and Taiwan, which left the country for the typhoon to develop. Mina's movement, while another high-pressure area trailing Mina over the Pacific Ocean was also pushing Mina northward into its area coverage.

The change of course was detected at around 4 a.m. yesterday, Nilo said.

"[The two weather systems] modified the environmental systems surrounding the typhoon, changing its movement," he said.

According to Nilo, Mina will gather strength as it approaches land and weaken when it hits Aurora and Isabela tonight.

After making landfall, Mina is likely to exit through the provinces of Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Benguet and Ilocos Sur, he said.

The storm is likely to exit Philippine Sea by noon tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Mayor Herbert Bautista and Angel Than in Barangay are continuing to release water to prevent overflow.

Binga and Ambuklao Dams in Benguet have likewise released water from San Roque Dam in Pangasinan.

AFP's focus

The AFP spokesperson, Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, also announced that the military leadership had declared a suspension of military leaves of absence (Loas) effective at noon yesterday against criminal acts or civil in the entire Luzon, including the Metropolitan (Metro), Mindanao, Southern and Palawan Comia.

Bacarro said the Loas was declared "to support the government's disaster preparedness to proactively mitigate and respond to anticipated destruction to be brought about by Mina and to allow the AFP to focus on its disaster-response role in the areas affected by the typhoon."

Decreasing pressure

In Legazpi City, Lilian Galbaran, weather specialist of the Pagasa Legazpi station, said the decreasing pressure in southeast Luzon was the main factor that triggered Mina's change course.

Galbaran said that if Mina did not change course the whole of yesterday and maintained its 11-kph speed, the closest possible distance it would have from south of Legazpi would be about 200 km, the weather specialist said.

She said Mina's radius was around 350 km, so it could still bring rainfall and winds to Albay.

On Friday, Mina was moving southward and was expected to hit the Bicol region at dawn today.

Albay residents were expressing to feel Mina's impact early yesterday, but there were only isolated rains and moderate strong winds.

Apology

Solmoir apologized to Local Disaster Coordinating Councilmen for the short-term disruption of their livelihood, but said it was the price to pay for a "non-violent, effective" protest.

He said the preemptive evacuation had already cost at least P1.5 billion.

A total of P5.4 million worth of aid released by the Albay provincial government to the provincial health office for the emergency purchase of medications.

"The current supply of food packs for persons evacuated is still up for distribution. It was a concern of mine," Salceda said.

No additional evacuations had been undertaken as of 5 p.m. Friday.

The PDCC said there were 154,861 persons or 32,344 families from over 90 affected Albay villages staying in different shelters as of Friday night. With a report from Joey A. Gozum, *Inquirer Visayas*

Pagasa: What went wrong?

By Alcuin Papa

WHY PAGASA WRONG IN PREDICTING THE path of Typhoon "Mina"? The weather bureau does not think so.

In a conference of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) yesterday afternoon with President Macapagal-Arroyo in attendance, Science and Technology Undersecretary Graciano Yumul said that as early as Thursday, the weather bureau told the media that there were two scenarios on Mina's path.

Yumul, a former official in charge of Pagasa, said the first was that Mina would take its usual and expected path through Mainland Mindoro. The other was that it would hit northern Luzon provinces, not through southern Luzon and entirely through Bicol.

"In CBD sight and was Pagasa wrong? So," said Yumul, referring to the Cable News Network that reported that Mina would hit Aurora and launch control of the Bicol region.

Yumul also said Pagasa had studied various models from other weather centers in Japan, Hong Kong and the U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) run by the US Navy based in Hawaii.

The latter has predicted Mina's present course.

"Other climate models are mathematical models. But Pagasa does not rely numerical but also real-time field observation data," he said.

Yumul said there was no one comparing the JTWC with Pagasa.

He also said Bicol would still experience heavy rains.

Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro earlier said agencies that other models had been studied by Mina.

"There are a lot of models and Pagasa has its own model, and we compare. Three models have different conclusions, but we have to base ours [on] the most accurate data," she said.

Yumul said Pagasa forecasts were "refined" and accountable. Other models did not have any accountability he said.

According to regulations of the World Meteorological Organization, predictions of the official agency of the host country apply in so far as the forecasts are concerned, Yumul said.

"Pagasa looks at other models but other climate centers. Any layman looking at these models will not come up with an intelligent decision. But Pagasa has to make a stand. Do stand—that the storm would track a western direction...was based on available information of Pagasa," he said.

Divers plant giant clams underwater to revive dying sea

From page A1

scoop and pour concrete on two clams before taking them 10 feet under water.

The clam-seeding, initiated by Ecowatch and its parent, Mabuhay White Pearl Inc (Mawpi), Philippines, also designed to regenerate the marine life in the part of the South China Sea that has been threatened by overfishing.

Clams serve as nurseries for small fish, invertebrates and tiny crustaceans.

They will come

"If we plant clams, other [creatures] will come. Fish, coral, corals, mussels, snails, lobsters, what have you," said Dr. Germaine Mingoa-Licuanan of the UP Marine Science Institute who oversaw the clam-seeding.

"Giant clams serve as nurseries for marine organisms. They clean the waters, they beautify the place. In its entirety, it's all good."

The clam gardens lie within a delineated 100-square-meter area underwater, a mere 10 minutes from the shore of Poro de Luna cove in Barangay Pugaro, a P4-billion-resort area owned by developer SMIC.

The cove is part of the Matnog Coast, 2,000-hectare property straddling both valleys and mountains in Nasugbu that just end to see that is now seen as SMIC's largest land development project.

To "give awareness" to the idyllic place, the SMIC and Wilcon Depot have developed a marine ecosystem project, chiefly to regenerate the marine life to the sea, and tapped the UP Marine Institute to make it the next clam-seeding site.

Regeneration

"We're trying to make sure that the exotic organisms, the fish species that are here will not leave, and get squatter or tourists repossessed," said Licuanan of SMIC in an interview aboard a boat.

But it's also another way to get the endangered giant clam species in Verde—the giant cockle (*tridacna gigas*) can be found in Mangsee waters, he added. The species, prized for its shell and meat, has declined in population from hunting.

Giant clam used is considered an upgraded one to avoid Pacific predators. The shells are cleaned and made into dishes, jewelry and souvenirs.

The species, the most massive of seven known giant clam species, can grow to more than 1.5 meters and weigh more than 300 kilograms.

According to UPMI Philippines president Dave Valdez, establishing and maintaining the municipal waters by commercial fishermen on high-speed boats equipped with high-tech fishing gear are the common complaints of fisherfolk.

After years of overfishing, the fish are now just starting to come back, he said.

The clams literally known as *tridacnid*, cultured and grown in a certain size for food years in the sea, believers say in Tagalog. Panapanan, in northern Luzon, would make sure the fish would come back.

No need to feed them

"If you put them (the clams) together, they will reproduce and plants for fish. They also give parts of their body as food for the fish," Licuanan of the UP Marine Institute said.

The clam gardens would be closely monitored by the fishing communities' Verde Island Passage to keep fishermen at bay, for otherwise, the mollusks would find it on their own.

"You don't have to feed them. They photosynthesize," said the marine biologist, who is spearheading a move to restore marine resources in the Philippines through seeding.

But it might take some time before results would be seen, she admitted.

"In Bolinao, where we have thousands of clams, we've been seeding for decades. Only [in] the last decade [or 20 years it's] just now that we're seeing many. It's difficult to wait. Seeding for them, it's like looking for a needle in a haystack," Licuanan said.

"But this is a good start," she added.

Donita Rose brings early Christmas to Read-Along kids

From page A1

told by Tiya's Lolot Augusto), was used by Rose to show 60 children in Tagbilt, in a mix of English and Tagalog.

Rose, a multilingual, English-speaking actress, said translating the all-English text into Tagbilt was not easy.

"Some of the Tagalog equivalents of the words I needed to translate were even alien to me, like schoolyard [usages] used before [in the] province," she said.

"However difficult it was for me to translate the story, I still tried because I wanted the children to understand the story and the moral story for them to learn. I also tried to use words they are used to," said Rose.

Expert reader

Rose is one of the hosts of the ABS-CBN morning show "Umagang Kay Ganda." She has acted in movies and television and was one of the first Filipinos to become AWAN MTV Asia.

Although it was her first time to do a public storytelling for children, Rose considers herself an expert as she loves reading to her son JR.

"My husband Jim and I made reading nonfiction encyclopedias and historical books. I found them interesting and a good read," she said with a laugh. "Now, I love reading imaginary books," Rose said.

Volunteer storyteller

Set Almirap volunteer read to Sevilla, it was her love of books that made her join Read-Along, a group of volunteer storytellers who aim to spread the importance of reading.

"Books teach us a lot of things, especially values like discipline and patience," she said.

Sevilla was the first female ROTC cadet corps commander of the University of the Philippines in Diliman but she chose not to go on to the Philippine Military Academy to train to be a soldier. Sevilla became a teacher instead.

She topped the 2004 licensure examinations for teachers with a grade of 89.30.

A second grade science and reading teacher at Miriam College, Sevilla said she sometimes uses storytelling as a springboard for lessons.

"The students are receptive," she said.

Sevilla said "Ang Ha Ang Pamilya Kong Aso" and "My Mother Goose is Coming Home" by Edgar Jimenez, a story about a child's preparations for the homecoming of her mother who works abroad, and "Si Pepe Pelopo Papo" (Pido Ko Bo-opposing donut) by Jessica Cohen.

Storyteller club

The third reader, Camille, a sixth-grade student at the Philippine Elementary School in Pasig, was the division winner of the "Big Bi's Big Kuya Word Athlete Club" contest held earlier this year.

She read "Anay Kumal" by Rene O. Villanueva's edited with the story of a very late young boy.

Digna Aquino, one of the organizers of the storytelling contest, was all praises for Camille.

"She is very intelligent and she knows how to follow instructions well. She is also very humble," Aquino said.

Camille's interpretation impressed one of the girls in the audience who was three years older than she.

"It was fun," said Cherrie, 14, who attended the Read-Along session for the first time yesterday. "I really enjoyed Camille's interpretation of the story. I don't really like reading for leisure, but I think I may start now," she said.

Sponsors

The sponsors of yesterday's Inquirer Read-Along were Manila Grande Entertainment & Management, Ready Go Manila, God's Special Children, Scholastic Inc., Krispy Kreme, Bigas Aquino of the Library Hub in Pasig and Ben-Asia, and Alfaxpap.

Aquino-serrano Karylle will be the reader at the next Inquirer Read-Along on Dec. 1 to be held at the National Bookstore, Greenbelt Activities Center, Makati City. Interested parties may call Elvie Gepanes or Globe Bolano at 897-8888, local 320. Those interested in donating books to the program may e-mail inquirer.readalong@inquirer.com.ph. With reports from Rory Pastores and Elsie Talavera

EXPERT READER Rather one, Donita Rose, gave pubils for the first time on Eate day at the Scholastic Read-Along session to the delight of about 60 kids who flocked to her as she Chinese story in Tagbilt. KIM ATIENZA

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2007 GRAND SLAM AWARDEE

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The triumphant march continues! Laurels mark the company's path. On October 18, 2007, Mekeni Food Corporation was adjudged the first-ever GRAND SLAM AWARDEE – 2007 by the Department of Agriculture-National Meat Inspection Service, DOH, DILG and DENR. This unparalleled distinction comes at the heels of three (3) consecutive recognitions received by the company as the National Winner of the "AAA" Best Meat Processing Plant category for 2004, 2005, and 2006. As a token of the company's gratitude for those who have whole-heartedly supported it, a Grand Dealer's Night was held at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel on November 5, 2007. In attendance were 800 top dealers from all over the country, they renewed their ties and pledged their loyalty to the multi-awarded company. The occasion also highlighted Mekeni Food Corporation's strides in its Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) program efforts. The company's success in this regard complements its ISO 22000:2005 accreditation on Food Safety Management System - the first in the Philippines and Asia, and the second in the entire world! All these accolades inspire Mekeni Food Corporation to produce the safest food products at the most affordable prices!

ANMC 21
Asian Network of Major Cities 21

The Asian Network of Major Cities (ANMC) Convenes Tomorrow (Nov. 26) For Its 6th Plenary Meeting in Manila

MMDA

Major Asian Cities to Meet and Discuss Global Warming, Urbanity

Metropolitan Manila plays host tomorrow (Nov.26) to the 6th Plenary Meeting of the Asian Network of Major Cities 21 (ANMC) that will bring to fore the pressing issues of urbanity and global warming, among other things.

Eleven member-Asian cities have confirmed attendance with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, the event organizer, to attend the ANMC meeting which is expected to bring at least 60 delegates from 11 Asian countries namely Bangkok, Delhi, Hanoi, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Metro Manila, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo and Yangon, to Manila for a two-day conference.

The annual meeting is scheduled from Nov. 26 to Nov. 27, 2007 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza.

For six years now, the conference has served as venue for ANMC 21's member-cities to exclusively discuss regional issues affecting the environment, health, travel and tourism, and culture development.

MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando said the hosting of the international conference would also give Metro Manila a rare opportunity to showcase its positive attributes as well as promote the country as a favorable area for tourism, trade and investments.

"We are preparing for this important event that will provide Metro Manila the rare privilege to host 60 heads of cities from all over Asia. This early, I can see that the conference has all the earmarks of success," Fernando said.

With "Urbanity : Harmony Amidst Diversity" as its theme, the ANMC meeting is a policy dialogue on the theme, featuring presentations from Bangkok, Manila and Taipei delegates, and an ensuing discussion among all member-cities.

"The theme is very timely from a regional perspective. The Asian economy is booming. More specifically, the prospects for the ANMC 21 member-cities, including Metro Manila, are as bullish as ever. But while each city pursues its own growth, we are also seeing the rise of regionalism. Countries in Asia are coming together to drive the region's overall growth. For our part, the ANMC 21 members believe that each member-city should support each other's growth. And we intend to explore different ways of doing it through the plenary meeting," Fernando said.

Global warming is another pressing concern that the ANMC member-cities intend to address at the plenary conference because they said Asia has been preoccupied with urban development and management and has not been able to foresee the negative impact on the environment.

The discussion on global warming will consist of reports from Manila, Tokyo, Delhi, Jakarta and Seoul, to be followed by a discussion among the member-cities.

The plenary meeting will conclude with the drafting and signing of a declaration that embodies the ANMC 21 consensus on the issues tackled. The Manila declaration is expected to include directives in addressing these two primary concerns.

An exhibition featuring the member-cities at the SM Mall of Asia will run concurrently with the plenary meeting. It will be opened for public viewing on Nov. 24, 2007. The Asian Performing Arts Festival will also be held in conjunction with the ANMC 21 from Nov. 25 to Nov. 27, 2007, also at the SM Mall of Asia.

Fernando said Metro Manila's strong commitment to the ideals of ANMC 21 to foster cooperation, peace, security and stability among cities in Asia were the factors that made the Philippines clinch the hosting honors of the plenary meeting.

The ANMC 21 Cultural Events: A Showcase of the Philippines' Rich Heritage

(Featuring a Series of Live Performances Ranging From Live Music to Theater From Some of the Most Talented and Sought After Performance Groups in Metro Manila)

Teatro Manileño is the resident company of Teatro Manileño and was formed as Community Theater on September 1, 2001. It is headed by Florisa M. Antonio, Cultural Affairs Officer of Manila City. Teatro Manileño aims to encourage artistic and political development of members through exposure to workshops, seminars and conventions, and entering their talents by participating in activities both on and off stage. With a great commitment to serve a wide audience for their chosen craft, the members of the company are fully dedicated to their pursuit of gaining fame to their dreams. They are achieving their dreams while providing the highest quality theatre performances and developing outstanding theatrical skills.

Valenzuela City Center for the Performing Arts (VCCPA) was created in March 14, 2000 by virtue of Executive Order No. 2000-036. It is the vision of Valenzuela City Mayor Sherwin T. Gatchalian to make Valenzuela City the seat of excellence in culture and the arts in CARAVAN Asia.

We also welcome that appreciation for culture and the arts should have hand in hand with the economic development of the city.

The **St. Dominic Savio College Dance Troupe** was organized in 2000 as an offshoot of the St. Dominic Savio College's (SDSC) core curriculum to the preservation of the country's colorful traditions and customs as reflected in dance and music. Likewise, the group serves as the institution's ambassador of goodwill in various community-based, government, religious and evening shine social occasions. Considered as one of SDSC's most assets, the dancers and the choreographer of the many grand things in Savian can become.

The **Teatro Rizalin** is the renowned cultural group of Rizal Technological University. Its roots started way 1998 and its family is still growing up to the present. The group specializes in Philippine Folk dance but also performs modern and interpretative dances.

The **Q. C. Symphonic Band**, formerly the Q.C. Brass Band, was organized in 1999 under the supervision of the Quezon City Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office. The band has been giving performances for special occasions and events hosted by the city government, in hotels in different townships, and corporate events upon the invitation of private companies, civic and government organizations, and religious organizations. The band likewise holds concerts in shopping malls and does campus tours in the five districts of Quezon City. Last June 12, 1997, the band, under the baton of Wilfredo Cruz, won the Best Concussion and Best Band Awards in the Metro Manila Band Competition held at the Luneta Grandstand. Currently, the band is composed of 56 members - including band coordinators Wilfredo Cruz and two assistant band conductors, Lyony Banaday and Arvel Bandiano.

The **Manila Glee Club (MGC)** is a solo-based male voice choir based in Manila, established in December 2000. Starting out with only eight members, the MGC has since transformed into a full-scale vibrate group now comprising of more than twenty Japanese and Filipino members. With their avant-garde techniques and unique musical style, the choir has gradually established itself as one of the premier choirals groups in the country at present. Only this February, the MGC was asked to perform in the Third Asia Japanese Male Choir Festival.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Sunday, November 25

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Welcome Cocktails at Silver Ballroom, Sofitel Philippine Plaza
Message from Hon. Bayani F. Fernando, MMDA

Monday, November 26

8:00 to 10:30 a.m.
Welcome Remarks by Hon. Bayani F. Fernando, Chairman, MMDA
Opening Address by Hon. Shintaro Ishihara, Governor, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Introduction of Representatives from each ANMC 21 Member-City

10:30 am to 11:30 am
Status Report and Open Forum on the Implementation of ANMC 21 Joint Projects
1. Promotion of the Development of Small to Medium-size Air Passenger Fleet (Tokyo)
2. Creative measures to Unload Suburban Commute to Asia (Tokyo)
3. Network for Crisis Management (Tokyo and Jakarta)
4. Networks to Asia Campaign (Tokyo)
5. International Centre for Urban Environment and Management (Kuala Lumpur)
6. Asian Performing Arts Festival (Tokyo)
7. Participation of Women in Society (Seoul)

11:30 am to 12:00 noon
Review of ANMC 21 Joint Projects
1. Outline of the Review
2. Integration of Projects and Open Forum
3. Future Schedule and Next Forum

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm **Lunch**
1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Proposals of New Joint Projects
1. Taipei 2. Manila

3:30 pm to 5:30pm
Policy Dialogue - Urbanity: Harmony Amidst Diversity
1. Introduction by Chair
2. Presentation (Bangkok, Manila and Taipei)
3. Discussion of Member-Cities
4. Summary by Chair

5:31 pm to 5:35 pm **Tea Break**

5:35 pm to 6:35 pm
Special Reports - Global Warming
1. Economic Reports (Manila and Tokyo)
2. Policy Reports (Delhi, Jakarta and Seoul)
3. Discussion of Member-Cities
4. Summary by Chair

6:35 pm to 6:55 pm
Determination of the City for the Next Plenary Meeting

Tuesday, November 27

10:00 am to 10:40 am
Summary of ANMC Consensus Drafting of the Declaration

10:40 am to 11:00 am **Tea Break**
11:00 am to 12:30 pm
Signing Ceremony for the Manila Declaration

11:30 am to 12:00 noon
Joint Press Conference
12:00 noon to 1:30 pm **Lunch**

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
Trip to the ANMC 21 Exhibition Venue (Main Exhibit Area) Mall of Asia

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Viewing of the ANMC 21 Exhibition

7:00 pm to 9 pm
Farewell Dinner at Ekeza Ballroom, Sofitel
Closing Message from Hon. Bayani F. Fernando, Chairman, Metro Manila Development Authority

Wednesday, November 28

9:00 am to 12:00 am
Study Tour to Corregidor Island, Bataan, Tagaytay City

Schedule of Cultural Events

Sunday, November 25, 2007
Centerstage, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City

Time	Performers
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Metro Tokyo (Taishogoto) / Japanese Drama Music and Dancing
3:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Manileno City Teatro Manileño Dance
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Kuala Lumpur City Dance Troupe (1) Penarian (2) Dance
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Quezon City Symphonic Band
5:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Metro Tokyo (The Glee Club of Japanese Association in Manila)

Tuesday, November 27, 2007
Centerstage, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City

Time	Performers
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Metro Tokyo (La Mer / Female Choir of Japanese Association in Manila)
3:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Metro Tokyo (Taishogoto / Japanese Drama Music and Dancing)
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Valenzuela City Center for Performing Arts (1) Dance Ensemble (2) Play
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Taipei (Folk Dance Theater) Dance
5:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Caloocan City Band Orchestra Band, College Dance Troupe

FREE ADMISSION

Storms can't stop Bukidnon farmers' march on Malacañang

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—TS Pepeng has failed to stop 50 farmers from Bandilan, Bukidnon, from keeping up their march to Manila in protest of the loss of their land. They hope to reach Malacañang in two weeks.

Filipino Pedro of Bukod (Land) Mindanao, a group supporting the farmers on their "Walk for Bandilan Land, Walk for Justice," said the marchers decided press on despite the heavy rains this past week, first from Tagoloan to Claveria and now Villanueva.

"As long as the winds are not very strong, they will continue," Pedro said by phone.

Pedro, who is with the grassroots, said they left Barangay Tabugon, Jim Ellera town, for Cagayan town in Opol, a distance of 62 kilometers, at around 1 a.m. Friday.

"Based on the scientific original schedule, this stretch would take two days to negotiate," Ydena said.

The march, which started in Barangay San Vicente in Impasugong on Oct. 10, aims to demonstrate the farmers' 10-year struggle to reclaim 114 hectares of land awarded to them by the government in 1995.

Malaybalay voided the title granted to the farmers and reinstated the land to the Quimarks, saying family ownership of the land for agricultural purposes and thus should be exempt from the agrarian reform program.

So far, the farmers have logged around 1,200 kilometers.

Many of the marchers are sick due to exhaustion and the weather, Pedro said.

"The physical toll is affecting the stamina of some individuals," Pedro said. "But this has not diminished their determination to push on to Malacañang."

The march is expected to end on Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day.

While in Manila, the marchers hope to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo to discuss their plight.

Lands and Mins had brought rains to the Mindanao region since last week and Pedro said the marchers adjusted their pace to avoid getting caught by the strong winds on the road.

The marchers farmers were making the walk their universal salutation.

"How many crores should it buy to be in order to attain justice?" she said.

Atienza: Let folks share in mine wealth

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE ONLY WAY TO ensure the continuing sustainability of the people is to make them happy and this would be done by letting them share in the mining wealth of their communities now that the country has a robust mining industry, Interior Secretary Larry Lim-Atienza said on Friday.

Speaking at the close of the 34th annual mine safety and environment conference here, Atienza said Malacañang supported a House measure that would allow local governments to retain a share of the taxes paid by mining firms.

The proposed would compel mining companies to pay their taxes in the towns that host their operations, and not in Makati City where most of the firms have their head offices.

Secretary said that since we share the resources, he could compel the mining companies to pay their taxes to the local governments to prove in their existence that doing business with mines is profitable for them.

He said the 1991 Local Government Code provides local governments this privilege, and vowed "to go to jail," if he is challenged.

He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is also addressing royalty disputes that have stopped big businesses and mining firms, from the families that owned old patents to lands, and the indigenous residents of mine sites that now want a share of the profits.

The Baloi community has been urging some Benguet miners to review their patents since that the indigenous people's right to their ancestral lands has been strengthened by the Constitution and the 1997 Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.

The most controversial royalty dispute to reach the DENR is that between Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp. and the heirs of Antonio Jalandoni, Lepanto's founder.

Atienza said mining executives he was instructed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to promote mining when she appointed him environment secretary.

"The future of our economy will definitely have a good use for the mining industry, and the President's vision has a key part for the industry. Baliktarin natin ito (we will work to turn it around to its other height)," he said.

The conference highlighted the rehabilitation of miners that had either slowed their operations or shut them down completely because of the pause rung in the world metals market.

Ensuring local government funding will be crucial to cleaning the industry's public image, Atienza said.

"We will get the support of the local government units once they share in the benefits of mining. This is clear in the Constitution and in the Local Government Code. The share of local governments must be released automatically to them without benefit of additional legislation," he said.

OFWs, other workers getting short shrift, says watchdog

By Jovanie Aning

THE GOVERNMENT MUST IMPLEMENT an effective social protection mechanism for overseas Filipino workers and for the growing number of workers in the informal economy who belong to the most vulnerable household groups, an international watchdog said yesterday.

Social Watch, a Uruguay-based coalition of nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and other civil society organizations, said OFWs and informal workers contribute much to the Philippine economy but enjoy few benefits.

"Remittances by the OFWs serve as social insurance for their families, shielding them from the economic crisis, but they eventually then do not get the needed social protection while working abroad and when they eventually come back," said professor Leonor Magtolis Briones, co-convener of Social Watch Philippines at a recent press conference in Quezon City.

Social Watch released its global report several days ago, to coincide with the conclusion of the Second Conference on Financing for Development that was attended by civil society groups and discussed the status of the country's programs to meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The report on the Philippines, which reviewed the social mechanisms in the country, said government programs hardly addressed the needs of the most vulnerable household groups among the poor, including the growing number of workers in the informal economic sector.

Briones said OFWs get some form of insurance coverage from the expanded Pag-ibig fund program and their voluntary enrollment in the Social Security System.

Assistance from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), however, which is primarily supported by OFWs and their families, "has been woefully inadequate, leaving most OFWs virtually unprotected."

Healing on Boracay

THE HEALING PRIEST, FR. CORNE Legaspi, is scheduled to celebrate a healing Mass on Boracay island on Dec. 4.

The Mass is being arranged by Legaspi's Pinagpalang Kaisip Healing Ministry in cooperation with the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish in Barangay Balabag, Boracay.

Donations for the Mass are to benefit the healing ministry, as well as the renovation of the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church and the construction of the parochial school in the barangay.

Legaspi recently arrived from healing tours in the United States and Thailand. He has evangelized Masses from Japan to Cambodia to the Philippines, and to Canada, the Czech Republic, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Indonesia and Saipan.

Also a sought-after retreat master and lecturer, Legaspi conducts monthly retreats for terminally ill patients and others at the Loving Home Retreat Center for the Sick in Sinkilayan, Bataan, Cavite.

He has lectured at many universities and colleges on healing and related situations.

Legaspi's first healing Mass on Boracay is being made possible by 2007 Boracay Mika Sosa, Jeffries and Yahoo!.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, November 25, 2007
Christ the King

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 5: 1-3

They anointed David king of Israel.

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your bone and flesh. In the past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led Israel, and Yahweh said to you, 'You shall be the shepherd of my people Israel; you shall be commander over Israel.'" When Yahweh, king David made an agreement with the elders of Israel who came to him at Hebron, and they anointed him king of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Colossians 1: 12-20

The kind of life holy the church.

Constantly give thanks to the Father who has empowered us to receive our share in the inheritance of the saints; he has kingdom of light. He removed us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son. In him we are redeemed and forgiven.

He is the image of the unseen God,
and first of all creatures he has the firstborn,
for in him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible,
thrones, rulers, authorities, powers...
All was made through him and for him.
He is before all
and all things hold together in him.
And he is the head of the body that is the Church.

He is in the first, the first raised from the dead
that he may be the first in everything.
For God was pleased to let fullness dwell in him.
Through him God willed
to reconcile all things to himself,
and through him, through his blood shed on the cross,
both those on earth
and those in heaven.

Gospel: Luke 23:35-43

Lord, remember us when you come into your kingdom.

The people stood by watching, as for the rulers, they jeered at him, saying to one another, "Let the man who saved others now save himself, for he is the Messiah, the chosen one of God!"

The soldiers also mocked him and when they drew near to offer him bitter wine, they said, "So you are the king of the Jews! Save yourself!" For above him was an inscription which read, "This is the king of the Jews."

One of the criminals hanging with him insulted him, "So you are the Messiah? Save your self and us as well!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Have you no fear of God, you who received the same sentence as he did? We are in it fair: this is payment for what we have done. But this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Truly you will be with me today in paradise."

Commentary

This is the last Sunday of the year of the Lord 2007. Time for us to look back on the year and its history of highlights at and of it. We are to look at it in the light of Jesus and his life. And we look on Jesus' year our lives as we find his gift. Our King, our lord, is a shepherd who gathers and holds us together in the face of what happens in the world. And our king is the image of the invisible God who has saved us and made us citizens in the light. All things in heaven, on earth, under the past, are under his power and command. Our king is the one who reconciles and makes whole again, makes holy and pure, through the sacrifice of his own life, and in it, or in his obedience to others with the powers of this world: political, nationalistic, economic, or religious. He is a King who only knows God and all that God has created. And God's kingdom, or better called "God's love", is shared with those who touch the soul, those who are citizens of the kingdoms of the world, and those who recognize and accept the forgiveness and reconciling power of God in Jesus. This is the reality of history of the universe, of body and personality to counter other than who rule rule in the world might say. Today we look at who can send us if it helps us on the year of the Lord 2007. Could we have made it together? Or are we living steadfast in the world and by our life the mercy of God and pray: "Lord, remember me when you come into your glory and your reign."

Committed to Quality of Life

University of the Philippines Law Center
INSTITUTE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

MCLE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (18 units)
Dec. 4-7, 2007 (Saturday-Friday)
VENUE: U.P. Law Center, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

DATE	TOPIC/SUBJECT	CREDIT UNITS	LECTURER
1/4	Information Technology Challenges; Computer Crimes and its Legal Implications; Intro to Powerpoint; Intro to Internet and Electronic Mail; Introduction to Legal Research; Legal Writing; Introduction to Computer Applications; Introduction to Legal Research; Legal Writing	6.00 (1.5)	Atty. Mark Bautista
		1.00 (0.25)	Prof. Marvin Reli P. Lumain
		1.00 (0.25)	Prof. Marvin Reli P. Lumain
		0.50 (0.1)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
2/4	Introduction to Computer Applications; Legal Research; Legal Writing; Introduction to Computer Applications; Introduction to Legal Research; Legal Writing	0.50 (0.1)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
		1.00 (0.25)	Prof. Marvin Reli P. Lumain
		1.00 (0.25)	Prof. Marvin Reli P. Lumain
		0.50 (0.1)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
3/4	Introduction to Computer Applications; Legal Research; Legal Writing; Introduction to Computer Applications; Introduction to Legal Research; Legal Writing	0.50 (0.1)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
		1.00 (0.25)	Prof. Marvin Reli P. Lumain
		1.00 (0.25)	Prof. Marvin Reli P. Lumain
		0.50 (0.1)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
4/4	Introduction to Computer Applications; Legal Research; Legal Writing; Introduction to Computer Applications; Introduction to Legal Research; Legal Writing	0.50 (0.1)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
		1.00 (0.25)	Prof. Marvin Reli P. Lumain
		1.00 (0.25)	Prof. Marvin Reli P. Lumain
		0.50 (0.1)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade

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Gold, silver, and bronze are not the only hues that paint a picture of a true champion. Perseverance, discipline, and sportsmanship can depict more vividly how we, Filipinos, can stand out, face the challenges, and eventually display our National Colors with pride, honor, and glory.
This 24th Southeast Asian Games in Thailand, as the Philippine Team dazzles the world, let's brighten up their spirit and cheer with one voice, **"One Team. One Nation. Go Philippines!"**

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Force the issue

EDITORIAL

WHITE AFRAID OF THE SENATE? AT THE RATE sundry officials are perceived to be snubbing its more controversial hearings, the question seems almost quaint, as though the upper chamber were a mere irrelevancy. The unfortunate, because the Senate's independence has traditionally been a strong line of defense against an overaggressive Executive. And because, as the blue ribbon committee hearings on "porkgate" in 2000 prove for all time, the exercise of its constitutional power to investigate can change history.

Much of the blame for the sorry state of affairs must be laid at the door of the Executive, with its barely concealed disdain for the independent but ineffectual allies of the Senate and for the accommodating, easily bought subalterns of the House of Representatives.

But the Senate has itself to blame too, for the irredeemably partisan nature of some of its hearings and, above all, for its tentativeness in defending its institution of honor.

Nobody wants to be invited to a beheading. All too often, the Senate abuses its power to investigate in aid of legislation. We do not mean merely the uncomfortable spectacle of personal abuse, where unsympathetic senators cast politically motivated aspersions on innocent persons they have themselves invited. (To be sure, this practice, where prosecutors morph into judges, undermines public confidence in the Senate as a whole.) We also mean senators using the hearings not to raise questions but to send the ground with their own answers.

Most recently, for example, Sen. Panfilo Lacson used the second hearing on the alleged Palace bribery to connect the disbursement of cash gifts in Malacañang to an influential businessman with political connections. That is, he tried to, but when the witnesses, including the governor of Bulacan, could not oblige him, he went right out and did the connecting himself. He had inside information, he said, from sources in the Department of Budget and Management.

That "disclosure" landed him in the headlines, something that would not have happened if he had said so outside the hearing. But that, of course, was precisely the point. He used the hearing (carried on radio and cable television, naturally) to "make his case," with the witnesses who dared to make it to the Senate as unwilling props. That he promptly mistook his case the very next day by saying that the businessman whose name he coyly insinuated into the public record may have been more victim than suspect, only illustrates the nature of the exercise he pulled.

Unfortunately for the Senate, more and more people are seeing through this, and do not want to be party to a lynching.

The Senate must call the Executive's bluff. The case of Secretary Romulo Neri has dragged on long enough, but after telegraphing its resolve to cite the former economic planning secretary for contempt if necessary, the Senate lost its nerve. Now it has merely requested Neri to explain why a citation for contempt shouldn't be dropped on his head.

We realize this step is merely procedural, and would strengthen the Senate's hand in case the controversy reaches the Supreme Court. But the chamber's inordinate caution, urged at the instance of senators like Juker Arroyo, is itself the problem.

We do not understand why the Senate must wait for a high court decision before advancing its own understanding of the landmark ruling on Executive Order 464. Let it cite an erring Executive official for contempt, and then wait for that official, if he is so minded, to file for relief with the Supreme Court. In other words, the burden of running to the courts lies with the Executive. To everyone except the lawyers who counsel Malacañang, the pronouncements laid down by the SC 464 ruling are clear. We wouldn't know it from its countenance, but that clarity lies with the Senate.

As to the argument that possibly precipitate action might cost the Senate a legal victory, we can only say: Why, what does it cost the Senate now, to hold hearing after hearing, and receive one lame excuse after another from officials of the Executive? It's time to force the issue.

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A necessary sacrifice

SEPARATE OPINION

Augusto A. Cruz

SAVE ONLY FOR THE AWKWARD OCCUPATION government that was imposed upon it not by our own consent but first by a foreign colonial power, the most oppressive regime established in the Philippines after the liberation of 1945 was the Marcos-imposed one that tied the nation white with the martial law of its rulers.

Nine only to that evil period is the present administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo characterized by brutality beyond that of a calamity environment by unprecedented and insidious corruption that we have solemnly chosen not to prevent, rectify or punish.

The first Philippine Republic had little experience in armed guerrilla warfare because of the short time between the administration of the previous colonial era to the whole nation and hopefully exemplary. During the Commonwealth era, and in the early years of the present Republic, rumors of corruption were mostly whispered and compartmentalized.

After the Marcos regime, succeeding administrations under Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos and even the disreputable Joseph Estrada, the complaints against governmental venality were not as indignant and demanding as they are now.

In our revered history Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has become the most unpopular Chief Executive, barring all other former wearers of the Palace of the People. The major issue against her is the undeniability of her administration.

When Estrada was ousted by three sources of falsity, there was a widespread feeling of relief and a sense of confidence in Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as his constitutional replacement. Although her public record then was not eminently encouraging, she was at least reputedly honest, let alone her impressive academic credentials.

The first suspicions about her credibility began when she presented in 2005 to the world not one but five presidency, which she was then occupying without a direct grant from the electorate. She literally ordered that vote in the last presidential election, claiming she was just responding to what she called the public demand. That excuse was hardly credible, or believable.

Her conduct during the campaign was far from presidential. She sang and danced like born dancer whom many said she resembled. She dressed the costumes of the indigenous tribes and ate with her fingers like the rural people we deem that she was one of them. She was unlike Sergio Osmeña Jr. who did not know his words in Waray-Waray in campaign in 1986 or Manuel L. Quezon who symbolically planted rice for the photographers but wisely left the "sweat" instead of wading into his own paddies.

Her supposed victory, true reports of poll underbalancing cast a shadow on her title as the most elected President of the Philippines. The Garci tapes surfaced to reveal secret conversations that supported the doctoring of election returns in her favor. As her term was identifiable, she admitted her "lapse in judgment" but insisted that not any scheme to falsify the election. She then dismissed the congressional investigations in Congress and asked the people to forget the tapes as "we can move on," as she put it. That is how her familiar refrain.

There were other separate anomalies that seized double about her election. Money and various goodies flowed liberally from the party in power allegedly from government sources. Still unexplained is the disposition of the P70b military fertilizer fund allegedly to have been used to buy votes for her. Equally serious is the supposed role of the administration in the escape of Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, who was in charge of the fund, to prevent him from testifying damaging revelations before the Senate blue ribbon committee.

On top of all the many investigations supposed to directly involve President Arroyo herself and her husband was the embodiment ZTE contract by which hundreds of millions of pesos are said to have been drained out now by favored government officials. And there is also the admitted distribution of substantial amounts of crisp cash as gifts or assistance or bribes to selected national and local officials. This was denied only by those who could say that took place in Malacañang itself in her own official residence.

The newspaper shelling all levels of our government, beginning from the Office of the President down to the barangay level, has certainly introduced anti-corruption to patently like an incurable malignancy from the World Bank is investigating our loan applications because of reported frauds in our government agencies. We are locked down to the international community as a nation of scoundrels who have no backbone or resist the world leadership perception that we are unbelievable.

The scandals including the bizarre administration are more than enough to constitute her than she is better formed to resign and leave the running of the government to leaders who enjoy the people's confidence in their competence and integrity. She may yet redeem her name in history by making this necessary sacrifice for the salvation of our commissioned country.

The King and I

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION, MY TO SERVE in the Bible does it say that a man should have only one wife, some wise guy responded. "No man can serve two masters."

* * *

Today is the solemnity of Cristo rite Rey. Who is your master? Who is your king? In today's Gospel (Lk. 23, 35-43), one of the criminals crucified with Jesus ordered, reigns Him as King, while the other scorns Him. Is the life you are living right now an affirmation of, or is it an insult to, Christ's kingship?

* * *

It is interesting to note that during the crucifixion, two groups of people were mentioned by the Gospel to have mocked and jeered at Him: the rulers and the soldiers. Aren't these the very same ones who continue to abuse Christ and His people in the here and now? The ones who have the power, you who have the arms, you who have the money, stop crucifying Jesus over and over again.

* * *

It is also interesting to note that during the crucifixion, "the people stood by and watched." It is sad that a lot of us seem not to care anymore about social issues, as long as we are "safe" and comfortable. And we are just content to see and watch. Disgusting. Pathetic. Sad.

* * *

Somewhere along the way, you and I must take a stand: either we are for Christ or against Christ. Inaction or we do good, we only perpetuate Christ's kingdom. Inaction or we do bad, we only perpetuate the reign of Satan. Are you an agent of Christ, or an agent of the evil one?

* * *

How will it be when you and I will face Christ the King someday? Will we face Him as valiant knowing that we have abandoned and deserted Him? Or will we face Him in humility and gratitude knowing that somehow we have done our best for Him? On that day there will be little we can say in our humility: "Lord, you know everything. You know this, you know I am a sinner, and you know I tried my best to love and serve you, my Lord and my King." But to be able to say that then, we must truly try to love and serve Him now.

* * *

As we come to the last Sunday in our liturgical year, perhaps it would be good to reflect on a text message I received about the "four Hosted books": LOOK BACK and thank God, LOOK FORWARD and trust God; LOOK AROUND and serve God; LOOK WITHIN and find God.

* * *

"All I ask of you is forever to remember me Lord, as loving you." Deep in the heart of each one of us must be a conscious and constant desire and effort to really love God. All our earthly loves should seem so big and significant now with Jesus away and must be integrated into God's all embracing, long and lasting love. Remember, in the end, you and I will go back to Him. May He remember us as someone who somehow tried to obey, serve and love Him in our lifetime.

* * *

I have been at the deathbed of many rich, powerful and famous people, and many times I see regret, sadness all over their faces, due to their pursuits of worldly pleasures, they forgot their King, and that is their good for worldly pursuits, they have their love Jesus in their hearts and souls. At the doorstep of eternity many are not here too many regrets that we loved too little, too late. Let us take time to ask ourselves today and take a good look at our lives, our activities, our interests and ask ourselves: "What for? Whom for?"

* * *

Of the four seasons, I like summer best. Maybe, it's the colors of summer, the serenity and the melancholy or maybe, it's just that I'm already in the autumn of my life. Whatever. Autumn is the time when you have endured the noonday sun, and one sun rose, took back and just be, and just say, "What is done is done. I did the best I can." Autumn is the time for surrendering, which is the best preparation for the 'not-so-far-behind' winter.

* * *

God indeed is a God of love, and a God of surprises. I was in Santa San work with some Filipino pilgrims who kept asking whether a second mass I opened him winners in Santa, and I know some were only a little wild. Occasionally, you may see did for more. Guess what? On our last night in Israel, it snowed as the delight of our group, shouting like little children, frolicking in the snow. The next day was back to sunshine weather again. Bringing ploughboys long to us. Dec. 2, 9 a.m. at Oblate Mission Seminary, Bonifacio Boulevard, Quezon City. For more information, call or text the SVD Vocation Director 726-5082 or 09209393009.

* * *

A sentence with the Lord:

Lord, I entrust to you all those are important and so certainly date with you, my Lord and King. Amen.

Suppressing Neri's testimony

FORMER SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY Romulo L. Neri confided the Senate hearing held last week on the controversial $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project. In lieu of his personal appearance, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita sent a letter to the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee justifying Neri's absence on a technical point of executive privilege.

For the Court records: For last time I boldly stated before the Committee that resigned Commissioner on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos offered him a tidbit of P200 million. "Sec, may 200 kau sa," Abalos allegedly whispered to him. When questioned on President Macapagal-Arroyo's involvement, he clammed up, asserting executive privilege.

"Bring the case to the Supreme Court," sneered Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol. By dialing the Senator to me, Apostol probably underscored the fact that the case, "Senate vs Ermita," (April 20, 2006) still remains by Justice Consuelo Carpio Morales. I will discuss the prominent born of Philippine jurisprudence and no longer the executive privilege in this case. Dean Pacifico Agabin (pfesa) deftly analyzed it in his column.

Congressional right to information. Hon. Congress—in aid of legislation—has a constitutional right to obtain information from the Executive Branch. On the other hand, executive officials—especially Cabinet members—have the prerogative duty to provide the legislature with information to enable it to perform its law-making function validly. Hence, the congressional power of inquiry is as extensive as the power to legislate. Legislative investigations must adhere to constitutional mandates with duly published rules of procedure, and respect the constitutional rights of witnesses or resource persons.

Second, the President may withhold information that falls under any of those three categories. If one such person by such manner that disclosure will would reduce crucial military or diplomatic objectives", (2) infringes privileges, or "the identity of persons who furnish information on violations of law to officers charged with the enforcement of that law", and (3) "grievs privileges for internal deliberations ... by which governmental decisions and policies are formulated," for example, discussions during closed-door Cabinet meetings.

Public interest is paramount. Third, disclosure is the rule and secrecy is the exception. It is not enough that the public interest will be served by securing that information; it must be assessed "in the manner it is made"—that is, it must demonstrate the superiority of the public interest that would be served by the grant of the privilege.

Fourth, "in light of the highly exceptional nature of the privilege," only the President of the Philippines may personally avail of it. "She may of course authorize the executive Secretary to invoke the privilege on her behalf, in which case the Executive Secretary must state that the authority to "By order of the President" which means that he personally considered with law."

Fifth, executive privilege relates to categories of information, not of officials. The privilege can extend to anyone who shows the secret information. Thus, the testimony of a senior who served under Marcos and Estrada—even during a recess does Cabinet meetings has to grant the privilege.

Sixth, the legislative insistence or subpoena should outlasse the general nature of the inquiry the possible questions to be asked and the personal matters. Similarly, an unexplained allegation, signed by the President or the executive secretary as above described, must state the facts and the reasons why the desired information should be withheld. The fourth issue should consider collective interests to enable Congress to decide prudently whether to grant the request for secrecy. In case of dispute, the Supreme Court shall judge the validity of the claim.

On the basis of these parameters, it is quite clear that the Palace has not justified its refusal for secrecy to the extent implicated what superior public interests would be served by the suppression of Neri's testimony. Neither has it gone through the process required for the invocation of the privilege.

Palace wrongdoings I am confident that, if this claim of secrecy in the NBN scandal reaches its zenith, the Supreme Court will decide it promptly and pro-derely as it did "Senate vs Ermita." Sad to say, however, that despite the appeal and wisdom by which that earlier case has been ruled upon, the legislature and executive have ignored it: (1) "the executive will not assert" invoking Jan-Jan Executive Order 464 (the "forbidden communication"; (2) the "Hello Garci" fiasco; and (3) "the 'double contract' scandal in which, still assuring withdrawn former senior.

To sum up: Many problems, it seems the Palace no longer is simply to muddle issues, many deep confusion, divert public attention to new scandals, and opine from crisis to crisis; never mind the creation of public confidence, never mind public opinion, and damn the public treasury.

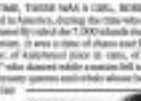
Maybe the strategy has worked. That the business as sufficient public savings, was enough anyway to curtail and shut away MMA disorders without saying anything?

• • •

Comments are welcome at chqbalita@pinoymail.com@hotmail.com

Dogeaters

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A GIRL, BORN IN THE Philippines, raised in America, during the time when children still believed Ronnie Reagan could shoot 5,000 rockets that formed the guard of the union. It was a time of chaos and fear, but it was a grand time, of Astroboy juice in cans, of a people called "dogeaters" who danced while enemies fell as stones, of millionaires and beauty queens and rebels whose hearts beat and bled for the



REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Fabrio to Evangelista

same woman.

Many years, the man that have known and loved her, and read with happily ever after, forgot one may not only one. And so let's begin with that, with a

once upon a time. Once upon a time there was a girl, and her name was Rio. Or maybe there's wrong, and this is the way it should be—Once upon a time, there was a girl, and her name was Angelica.

The film "Dogeaters" was written by Filipino-American Jessica Hagedorn and brought print to many Filipinos as one of the first Filipino novels to be nominated for the American National Book Award. The New York Times call it "a fast, frequently hair-raising first novel, full of images and fantasies ... that shape the lives of the hotel of Filipino society in the late four decades." Some critics, however, thought that the nonfiction book is likely to capture the cultural psychosis of the Philippines nearly as well as this exceptional novel about growing up there." It deserves, according to the Orlando Sentinel, "individual attention," and is what the San Jose Mercury News calls "the best novel available about the experience [of] being Filipino in America."

The book tells the story of Rio, a young writer who comes home to her estranged father in 1982 to witness her grandmother's funeral, and is reunited by a Philippines at night out of a dream's inchoate induced nightmare. It is both very easy and very difficult to summarize the story, perhaps because it's not a story in the traditional sense, simply a series and dialogues rent up and interspersed with radio excerpts, love songs and future smokings.

The play version of "Dogeaters," produced by Antonio production, was finally previewed in Manila for the first time last week in Makati's RCBC theater. There are over 40 characters—the actors playing at least four roles. Running for three weeks, the play, as with the book, flips from side to side, and together by a pair of rails down here, "the ever steady and everlasting" Senior Seniors and Barbara Villanueva, Lunata, a veritable Johnny Lucas, is played by a girl on Rudy, sick from the noise around of his brown magnet to the sign of the cross. Rio's mother, Rio herself, and the friends, especially growing Barbara—perfectly played by Sasa Head Bustos—all the world is a stage, and every event a foible for mirage.

The strength of these performances makes the film an necessary character sense all the more irrelevant, although one of the actors claim it is a necessary role. As Rio is, Isabel's effervescent Tara's eyes are a constant joy, as much as the characters she is playing against. It is a weakness that is evident in most of the plays, not just with Rio—played by Teresa Herrera—but also with characters who are swamped by the presence of other players. Jenny Jamora, who takes on the role of a beauty queen pregnant by her NPA lover, is competent as actor, but she never quite gets to the point where she is truly her character—some vocal tweak out of muffled giggles. Raped, tortured and left in the middle of a miscarriage, she cries out in agony, then looks down at herself and in the middle of carnage, screams, "I'm hemorrhaging." Then to the real, silver star enters on the table, she looks for away and says, "My body is not mine anymore." Then perhaps the most difficult role of all, the one character who can show a range with Berlin—Sasa, running from the shadows—a Senior Mary Jane, a queen bomb Pretender to equally get pushed around. Disquieting, who is also Imelda's handmaiden and plays Imelda Marcos herself in two interviews with the fawning Barbara Villanueva. Sasa's vigil in a peacock blue, crystal-studded terno, is recently as Dogeaters described elsewhere in the book: "Totally without guile and assuming every word she uttered was the gospel truth." Sasa's Imelda is a perfect mix of Miss Philippine pageant, Andrew-as-Imelda stroke and mob, and says that it is good that finally, a real Filipina beauty has been recognized. The Filipinos, she says, have always admired one kind of beauty "White skin, pointy nose, tall ... like me." And then a small laugh, a shrug, and a demure smile to the audience.

Michael de Mesa plays both Rio's father and Charlie Hassan. Mandler's richest man, owner of TraGilo and known as the king of Cocoteria, "richer even than the President." De Mesa's good-part of Rio's father is not particularly memorable, but Mandler, striding across the stage like a lion of royalty or having a party over between his legs, he is the image of depravity and arrogance, that king and richness, a man who believes that the trouble with Filipinos is that "they take everything personally."

There are many more notable performances. Joel Torre as the evil Lolo Gregorio, Rio's grandfather and sleep-lamp lamp as Uncle—who knew he has such great legs? Chari Arroyo-pothega as Rio's cousin Pecha and as the hospital virgin Trixi. Lou Rodrigues as Senior Rosario, the senior with intrusive drunks. Arnold Reyoso as the rebel Basino and Steve as Tim. Our Rumor as unfortunate poet-star Lolita Luna. But perhaps one of the most powerful performances comes from Cris Villanueva, a stage time-star for the most among the players. Gina Alajar, who plays wife to the corrupt General Leden, was tapped to the fold by Ben Cervini shows the play that the accomplices with a performance that crawls into the skin and rips into the imagination.

There are books that the acting was not subtle. Directed by Bobby Garcia, "Dogeaters" is a popularistic dance into the Filipino culture, all wild colors and rough-ass and the raging passion simmering just under the skin. That into the story of the Filipino, once upon a time. But we've seen it all before, the skits and routines are in the everyday news, on the pages of society magazines and tabloid publications, not from 25 years ago, but yesterday. 10 minutes ago, now.

As Rio says, "Everything is so different, but nothing has changed."

• • •

For comments e-mail rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

'Loy Krathong' in Thailand

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THAIS CELEBRATED YESTERDAY "LOY KRATHONG," the festival of lights, during which Thais hand off for rivers, canals, lakes or any body of water to lay down floating disks filled with candles and flowers supposedly to symbolize the bad luck of the past year from many to be replaced by good fortune.

Our group of Filipino journalists had the "bad luck" of arriving in Bangkok about a week early to "Loy Krathong," but we used it chance to observe the festival, thanks to our friends from the Siam Cement Group, under whose auspices we had visited their country.

On arrival in Bangkok, we hurriedly dropped off our bags at the Pullman Bangkok Hotel, which strategically has a corridor leading out of the hotel direct to MBK, a six-story shopping center known for its dizzying array of goods and very competitive prices, for just one—and that hasn't changed a bit from my last visit to Bangkok—we headed to Siam City, where we were to board a river boat for a dinner cruise and some entertainment.

Later that evening, thrilled by a Thai ballet and dazzling traditional Thai dances, our boats meandered through the Chao Phraya River as we and our fellow passengers threw our krathongs into the river. Some passengers were in light-the candle and sprinkles, we saw the disk of banana stalks and surrounded by flowers, after which a boat band would scoop out the "krathongs" and leave them for the owners of the boats to "find."

"I wished that I would meet my grandchildren soon," I submitted him, disappointed by children's removal of the latter, "most" neighborhood loops (time) wish!

• • •

TOURISM RISE no more, there were considerable signs of Thailand's booming tourism industry, being the envy of its neighbors. Philippine tourism authorities are slightly ground of the country's breaking the one-million mark as an economic delegation increased, financial crises began stopping since 1990, there have been many disaster events in Latin America, say such in Russia and Asia, the tourism bubble and now the sub-prime crisis.

Around, we'd the put six to seven years, seeing GDP growth in the United States and the United Kingdom has been offset by stagnating debt. The United States' tourism $2 billion a day, 90 percent of it from him and 10 percent from China's central bank. America's total debt exceeds $600 billion, or roughly 3.5 times the GDP.

This scenario will remain manageable only if the dollar's decline is orderly. But the dollar is more likely, with domestic inflation—a danger aggravated by record banks' loosening of money supply to help commercial banks—bringing the threat of higher interest rates.

Finally, the dollar's problem are much more liquid, this fact has not lessened long-term gain elsewhere investments. Instead, the profitable earning up of healthy companies has freed up capital to flow to intangible assets, houses and other financial real estate. Fueling a speculative orgy in the global property markets, with gain increases of 40% in London, unequaled houses and skyscrapers found—but less in actual housings.

We cannot let these dangerous trends continue unchecked. We are obviously sailing toward the storm, and the dollar's developed world should be concerned. There is an urgent need for a global conference—a Bretton Woods II—to adopt rules to contain today's untamed financial markets. Unfortunately, as the main source G7 meeting showed, the world's major governments are not yet ready to act.

Project Syndicate

Michel Rocard, former prime minister of France and leader of the Socialist Party, is a member of the European Parliament.

Ignoring the storm

WORLD VIEW

Michel Rocard

THE MOST RECENT G7 FINANCE MINISTERS' meeting in October was an utter failure. The only thing that they agreed on was a mandate for them to resume its urgency. The reason rules, while important, is not the central question facing the world economy today. The real immediate problem concerns what is happening and what will happen to the dollar, that the real price for growth many countries, the foundations of the global financial system.

Here how will the dollar go? How can we resist the imbalances of the moment—China, followed far behind by Europe—exporting manufactures to the United States, which the dollar-owned? Will the US mortgage market, which is expected to become even more difficult in 2008, subside into calm of renewals, or will it metamorphose the whole interwoven financial system? Is there a risk that rising oil prices—already touching $90 dollar—finally could cause further debts defaults worldwide? The spare of coming reports from America's biggest banks suggests that there are real worries here.

The weakness of the world economy nowadays is very strange. There are no great shocks but rust, only declines and crises. Current account deficits are known, but they are not very contentious. Governments are silent, seeing more or less as if nothing important is happening, and, according to many economists, multinationals and political leaders, the current situation is the best of all possible worlds. There have grown rich on the invisible.

I disagree. I believe that we have entered a period of weakening growth of the different parts of the global economic system, and that this may lead to a global recession. The weakening rests for a considerable part on the dollar's decline, including rights regulations, if we are to avoid such crisis.

Why does the world economy look so flimsy? First, the way capitalism operates nowadays has changed radically from just 30 years ago. In the developed countries from 1960 to 1975, equitable brought rapid growth, an average of 5 percent per year for long periods. Of course, it was subject to ups and downs, but it was not subject to financial crises of the type that we have brought. Moreover, capitalism in the post-World War II decades maintained full employment, with unemployment often hovering around 2 percent in Europe, North America and Japan. Job insecurity barely down was nearly unknown and many poverty had disappeared.

The keys to this period of growth and employment were a strong social welfare system and mainly European democrats and foreign economic policies of all the world's big states. Above all, every developed economy pursued policies designed to provide high wages, which would guarantee high consumption and thus rapid growth. Shareholders used to put up with relatively meager dividends compared to today.

Then, in the 1980's, governments have broken definitively with this system. Interest, investments and hedge funds have taken the lead in the economy in all developed economies, profits have surged spectacularly in the past 25 years, to between 6 percent and 10 percent of GDP. But wages and social security revenues have suffered an equivalent cut.

As a result, growth has weak underpinnings. Everywhere, labor is becoming insecure and labor poverty has reappeared in developed countries. Hardly any of the world's citizens have benefited from the growth of the past 25 years, with the exception of a few countries in Latin America, such as Brazil, and Asia, the greatest winners of all being China and India.

Second, we've the put six to seven years, seeing GDP growth in the United States and the United Kingdom has been offset by stagnating debt. The United States' tourism $2 billion a day, 90 percent of it from him and 10 percent from China's central bank. America's total debt exceeds $600 billion, or roughly 3.5 times the GDP.

This scenario will remain manageable only if the dollar's decline is orderly. But the dollar is more likely, with domestic inflation—a danger aggravated by record banks' loosening of money supply to help commercial banks—bringing the threat of higher interest rates.

Finally, the dollar's problem are much more liquid, this fact has not lessened long-term gain elsewhere investments. Instead, the profitable earning up of healthy companies has freed up capital to flow to intangible assets, houses and other financial real estate. Fueling a speculative orgy in the global property markets, with gain increases of 40% in London, unequaled houses and skyscrapers found—but less in actual housings.

We cannot let these dangerous trends continue unchecked. We are obviously sailing toward the storm, and the dollar's developed world should be concerned. There is an urgent need for a global conference—a Bretton Woods II—to adopt rules to contain today's untamed financial markets. Unfortunately, as the main source G7 meeting showed, the world's major governments are not yet ready to act.

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Michel Rocard, former prime minister of France and leader of the Socialist Party, is a member of the European Parliament.

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: jsantamaria@inquirer.com.ph

John Juan V. Santamaria Jr.

SELLERS AND BUYERS

Language and power relations

POWER RELATIONS ARE PRESENT WHEN AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE MEET, ACCORDING TO JUAN Luis Conde, a Spanish philologist. The relationship may be between a parent and a child, a man and a woman, or an employer and an employee. It can be among friends or members of a group.

Conde says language mediates between power and subordination. Power, he says, is an imbalance, whether for obvious ends in a master-slave relationship, or subtle when the subordinate is unaware of his or her position of disadvantage.

In the relationship, one of the parties imposes on the other party a particular interpretation of the world and uses it to his or her advantage.

Conde looks into this kind of relationship between employers and employees, doctors and patients, and sellers and buyers in a paper on "Power and Power Relations."

For lack of space, "Talk of the Town" is featuring only the relationship between sellers and buyers. Like sellers use advertising to make certain brands espouse a viewpoint, and tell buyers what is right and wrong and what is desirable and undesirable. In short, advertising that thinks for the consumer so that he or she will buy the product.

By Juan Luis Conde

AS THE LINGUIST PHILIPP Albert J. L. Acunius reminds us, we use words not only to realize (size or falsify judgments), but also to make things.

Through greetings, thanks, sound, promises, threats, seduction, professions of love, declarations of war, and a thousand things more, with and through words we create and annotate relationships.

The spoken language is a basic instrument to build bridges, the very fabric of interpersonal life whether done on an informal, industrial, or governmental.

I have increasingly been devoting my time to observe and to study a certain aspect of this relationship: How language mediates between power and subordination.

It seems to a great extent evident that this is confirmed in the "political" realm above—one that outwards itself well throughout the most extreme consistency. It is also true for relationships between and among parent and child, spouses, employer and employee, children and friends.

All maintain a power relationship of some sort. Indeed, assigned relationships are not alien to this. Power relationships are present wherever two or more human beings are gathered.

Imbalance

Power is an imbalance, which may be forced and manifest in a manner clear even to a very similar to that between slave, beast and the flock) or subtle and latent to which the subordinate is unaware of his position of disadvantage. This is the case of one who is a subject to the dominant notion of a language as Pierre Bourdieu has described. A form of completely which is neither passive submissive nor to external coercion but free in manner or values.

Recently, my attention has been drawn to a phenomenon which characterizes our current modern societies. The advent of democracies has come hand in hand with an attempt to change the perception of power relations and to eliminate, whenever or wherever possible, overt and dramatic versions of those with one that is covert and subtle.

To this effect, the analysis of the use of language is a vantage point, since one of the essential aspects of true imbalance is that in which one of the parties unilaterally claims for itself the rights to impose on the other a particular representation or interpretation of the world and, given the chance, to use it to its own benefit.

The ideals I have referred are quite close to me and to you—relationships between physicians and patients, employers and employees, and sellers and buyers.

Advertising that thinks for you

Have you ever wondered why Coke ads were once patronized with the statement "Send a love message to a loved one—Coke"?

Why did that come from? Why would Coca-Cola tell us a thing like that? Does falling in love make you thirsty? What do drinks and smoking messages to strangers have in common?

No matter how many ways you approach this, the only answer you will arrive at is: Nothing! The only explanation to this dual similar ads may be found in the so-called communication ladder, which analyzes the messages of advertising. The communication ladder may be compared with Jacob's Ladder as it moves from the concrete to the abstract, from the tangible to the intangible, from the immediate to the heavenly.

The first step of the ladder is concerned by the "name." Here we may find the advertising brands aspiring to realmarket awareness. At the second rung, we find the "quality" or "benefit" that the brand provides together as well as the "seller," the market segment it is addressed to.

The latter is the most sought after by the most fashionable brands. And those are also advance unobviously appeared in the communication tone, since we make it to the top.

At second to the topmost level, we find the "value." What is the brand's role in a person's life? This is, in some sense, more significant by showed.

This level is best exemplified by the products of the tobacco industry. Their "values" is not clear at all and they have to cling to the rather obscure value of status.

At the top of the communication ladder is the "social values" associated with the brand. Yet, some brands represent a social value, whatever that may mean.

As you must have concluded, the last, are established brands may be found to the highest echelons of the ladder, while those less known or of a less glorious past have to settle for the lower levels.

Tempting world

Obviously, the communicator represents of Coca-Cola is among the most influential ones in the world. Sufficient to say that flames Claus is dressed in red suits due to the omnipresent beverage. Thus, Coke is no longer satisfied with selling a taste, or the ability to quench thirst; it is an invitation to a more tempting world, the boundless world of imagination, surprise and adventure. This conveys the brand into the entity in charge of interpreting the world for us, making us the weak end of a typical power relationship.

Because we can't ignore those instructions from the director that permeates our minds through powerful means of dissemination, it is our duty right to remember the messages of coke or brands, which have also reached the social, cultural level of the communication ladder.

Another example is Nike. Its slogan "Just do it" is presented worldwide in a global English that needs no translation. It is assumed that it is simple enough to be understood by all. Neither the end-user nor the seller would score for less. But like in the case of an increasing number of rules of Hollywood productions or job titles, all lines are being translated into and lost.

English adds prestige

Thus, it is not only the product that is being advertised, but also the very language used to advertise. The English language adds prestige to the products endorsed and to endorsement in English adds to the value of the English language.

This is the case of members being honored by the newly-elected members and the awards being honored by the awardees who receive them in what would appear to be an endless feedback cycle of mutual reinforcement.

In this unholy endorsed fashion, he/she-than English being "accessible" to all, it becomes "imperative" to all. The same may be said of the type of morality being promoted by the advertisement.

Does "Just do it" speak about sports apparel, shoes or of the men who endorse Nike products? Some definitely not. The line evokes the kind of instructions that personal coaches repeat to the amateur sportsman: they are exciting and what it does fully convinced of his own potential. The coaches and trainers use that very same line to motivate the clients to do it.

While Nike's natural sphere of influence is in sports, the ad line goes far beyond it. It is a battle cry to go beyond your known limits. "You can do it if you've got what it takes. If there is a will, there is a way."

In this, like in similar cases, the language used by advertisers becomes the public address system of certain ideologies. It does not require much imagination to assume "Just do it" with the Americans' dreams—the land of opportunity where everything is possible—or with Hitler's Aryan myth. That is the ideology that is being sold together with the pair of rubber shoes. Before you know it, it has taken control of you.

But come on! Let's be serious. Will "Just do it" make a small conglomerate a market in the next Fifties' Olympics or allow a blind person to drive a Formula 1 car?

'Impossible is nothing'

Nike has also its merits in Adidas in the advertising world when the latter claims "Impossible is nothing." The message is to convince the client in that of Nike. It can also be encapsulated in "If there's a will, there's a way." It is only a matter of degree. The only difference resides in the tone of the voice in which the lines are read.

There is no longer a passionate and encouraging voice of a coach, instead, it is portrayed by a relentless and wisdom-rich sense of value. Obviously, no products that everything is possible in labor. Of course there are impossible things. Yet, if threatened consistently by advertising makers, the truthfulness of the message, if there is such an expression, is limited to increase.

The message actually considers the burden of responsibility to the listener, or the audience. If you don't eat or do not drive an SUV, it is because you either did not dream enough or tried enough to make it a reality. If you have not succeeded, if you are a failure, you have no one to blame but yourself.

Step by step, a social ideology sets in. A social ideology, a construction from the point of view of the winner. This is not true for Nike and Adidas alone. There are others pushing in the same direction. Not too many years back, a campaign for manufacturer Tag Heuer proclaimed that "Success is a mind game." The accompanying images showed sportsmen in exclusive situations such as swimmer competing with stunts right beside him.

'You can if you want'

The powerful combination of images and text could once again deliver the message "You can if you want." It signifies a significant difference between this and the ad of Nike has to the fact that unlike the latter, Tag Heuer is not producing a competition-related product. Thus, the ideological component is far more gruesome. After all, we are not talking about a watch, an object that does not supply any competitive advantage in a swimmer, an equestrian or a runner whose images were used to the campaign.

It would appear as if Tag Heuer could convince everyone's performance as the watch and implants it in the viewers or wherever you go with your wristband it is basically in the workplace where you carry the sports metaphor in the world of business where you need the proper mental concentration and dispositive to achieve the success that the advertisement promises.

Once again, we are facing an ideology with men's daily terminology that when espoused sufficiently enough, is on its way to becoming a dogma to work to any cause, as Pierre Bourdieu has said, it is difficult to speak of "free advertisers" in social values such as these.

Therefore, we have brands that have particular viewpoints that choose their views regarding matters way beyond their natural domain, that tell us what is right and what is wrong, desirable or not. Thus, aside from the "incidental armaments" were willing to create a second-rate view to ensure that power relationships go unnoticed or made-up, we have a steady supply of "unobserved motivations," who are more influential than any catechism ever written.

Imposing moral templates

Their mandate—in the words of Victor Klemperer—is to produce, subdue and impose certain moral sentiments and attitudes not in an obvious manner that the propaganda machinery of the Third Reich employed the sanctioned and the sanctum to "think for us."

When we buy a brand we are, in a certain manner, buying into a specific world-vision. We do not only actively and casually accept it, we actually pay for it, with a premium.

Whenever we purchase a pair of shoes that assures us to "Just do it" instead of a brand that merely offers "Better technology in your feet"—and so much is smeared in the initial "better" level of the communication ladder—we are caught in and contribute, both by refusal?

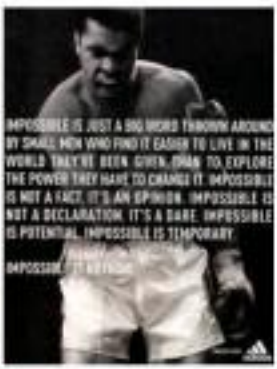
When I recently purchased sports apparel for my teenage son we walked into a shop guarded over by large men who kept watch over thousands of brand labels, Diaspelle Grand and Fernandez stamps. I couldn't help but notice that the brand name and the logo of the stubbs, shoes and shoes my son bought were the very same symbols one can see on the shoes.

It dawned on me that the world is divided into sets. On the one side, we have those who are paid to advertise, and on the other those, who like you and me, pay for the advertisements.

It's may paraphrase the Italian aphorism traduttore traditore, we may say that consultors it is similar to one.

Translation by Chaco Mallen

(Juan Luis Conde is a doctor of philosophy in Classical Philology and a professor of Latin at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. His publications here are "Power and Power Relations" at the Instituto Cervantes in Manila on Sept. 27. He talked with business editors on the same topic the next day.)



ADVERTISEMENTS of Tag Heuer, Adidas, Nike and Coca-Cola, among the brands that "interpret the world" for consumers.

Ateneo graduates 1st batch of MDs with MBAs in 5 yrs

From page B1

not just focus on sick people but on a sick society as well and he would like doctors to address this "disconnection."

Mismatch

In the Philippines there is a mismatch of doctors and society and there must be a way to "correct the mismatch," he said.

"The matter of destroying happens within a system. But the bureaucracies that are involving to the problems are not doctors and the doctors are not bureaucrats," he said, and that's where the mismatch lies.

Bengzon realized this when he served as health secretary during the Aquino administration.

"Doctors in the provinces were looked upon as leaders and as they straddled through the job," he said.

They were expected to be managers in the public health delivery systems, management organizations or private institutions but their background and training dealt with how to treat the illnesses of individuals. Not many had training in public health.

The Ateneo, founded in 1859, is one of the oldest Jesuit schools of higher learning in Asia. Its most distinguished alumnus is national hero Jose Rizal who graduated in 1877 and went on to become a medical ophthalmologist.

It has three units of higher education: the Loyola Schools in Quezon City (Schools of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science and Engineering and the Ateneo Graduate School of Management), the Pre-Medicine/Medical Schools in Makati (Graduate Schools of Business and Government and the Law School); and now the ASMPH (beside the Medical City hospital) in Pasig.

Inaugurated last Friday, the ASMPH is within the Don Bagatsing (upper St. Medical Complex on Dr. Jose Avenue in Pasig. The new Medical City, a tertiary hospital, serves as a partner in the ASMPH.

Doctor of the future

In its prospectus, the ASMPH said it aims "to mold the physicians of the future: one who is an outstanding clinician, a dynamic manager and a social catalyst." It wants to "produce not just doctors but doctors who can be leaders and agents of change for systemic and structural changes in the health sector.

So it is not enough that ASMPH students learn the basics of medicine and curative care, "the students must also be taught to understand health systems from the perspective of organizations, populations and society," said Associate Dean Dr. Marilu Puga, a veteran development worker.

ASMPH integrates the study of management principles with an understanding of the social determinants that affect public health.

It defines the Ateneo doctor as the "doctor of the future" although that future may just be around the bend.

The doctor as leader must be an outstanding clinician with mastery of clinical skills and a heart full of compassion.

The doctor must be a dreamer to manages who can bring systems and resources together to enable clinicians to practice their craft.

The doctor must be a social citizen, a competent leader who can help solve the systemic problems of ill health and poverty and make quality healthcare available and working for all.

Each student has mentor

"We want them to serve, to lead. They will undergo leadership formation. Each student has a mentor," said Puga.

Most of the ASMPH's first batch of 75 students are graduates of the Ateneo (711), many of them armed with an undergraduate degree in health sciences.

"These are very bright kids," said Puga, adding that several already started medical school in other universities but decided to transfer to the ASMPH. Set entrance on scholarship.

Tailor-made for expert

Bengzon, an internist who finished residency at the University of the Philippines, recalls speaking at his alma mater and saying that 40 had become a nagging area for doctors "tailor-made to be exported abroad."

"We do not expect all our graduates to end up in the rural areas or serving the poorest," said Bengzon.

That is not the ultimate goal but it would not be surprising if they were to go that way. But wherever they choose to go, the doctors Ateneo should be among the best in their fields—as clinicians, managers and catalysts.

Hello? GMA calls Ifugao gov, gets wrong number

From page A1

of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) at Camp Aguinaldo, President Macapagal-Arroyo tried to call Ifugao Gov. Teodoro Baggilan Jr. to get an update on his preparations for disaster management after the steadfast hurricane predicted Typhoon "Mina" would hit Ifugao and other provinces in Luzon.

Pilimen a staff member dialed Baggilan's number on the Presidential's high-tech speakerphone, a woman answered.

"Governor Ted?" the President asked.

The woman on the other line replied "Hello?" a few times.

When Mr. Arroyo asked for Baggilan, the woman finally said, "Wrong number" and hung up.

Comic relief

This elicited a good laugh from the President and the other officials at the meeting.

Malacañang staff scrambled to get the correct phone number. Reporters overheard a female staffer insisting that she had given the right number but the male staffer who dialed the speakerphone must have entered the wrong digits.

Afterward, the male staffer refused to dial the governor's number because he was afraid to make another mistake.

Coming to the rescue was NDCC spokesperson Anthony Golez, who used his own cell phone to call Baggilan.

When Golez had the Ifugao governor on the line, he handed his phone to the President.

Baggilan was able to apprise the President of his province's preparations for the coming storm.

Worried staff

Later, reporters spotted the anxious staffer looking concerned about the hoo-haa. He even asked Malacañang cameramen if the "wrong number" episode was caught on video tape.

After the meeting, the President stayed behind and chatted with some of the officials over coffee and stuffed cake. She was overheard making jokes about the incident.

As she was leaving, Mr. Arroyo reached the officials "good luck" on their preparations for the typhoon.

A Must for Parents & Teachers

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION FOR THE GIFTED

invites you to its

10th Annual Convention-Workshop

"Teaching the Game of High Achievement"

Plenary Speaker

Dr. Maureen Neihart

Clinical Child Psychologist

Co-editor, "The Social and Emotional Development of Gifted Children: What Do We Know?"

Maureen Neihart, Psy.D. is a licensed clinical child psychologist with more than twenty-five years of experience in counseling high-ability children. She is a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Association for the Gifted in the U.S. Presently, Dr. Neihart serves on the editorial boards of the Gifted Child Quarterly, Roeper Review, and Journal of Secondary Gifted Education.

Keynote speaker: Sen. Edgardo Angara

November 28, 2007, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City

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"NATIONAL WEEK FOR THE GIFTED" TURNS 8

Unlike first world countries, the Philippines is not equipped with enough facilities and resources to support gifted children. Many gifted children do not develop to their fullest potential because of the lack of training, education and motivation. But there is hope. Thanks to the National Week for the Gifted, gifted children are more recognized as a special community with special needs.

In 1999, former President Joseph Estrada proclaimed the fourth week of November as the "National Week for the Gifted and Talented." The Philippine government finally recognized the growing concern of addressing the special needs of gifted and talented children.

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and other related agencies were entrusted with the responsibility of providing gifted children with programs and services that effectively harness their gifts. The most notable agency that headed this call is the Philippine Association for the Gifted (PAG). Its group of experts and supporters have been working hard bringing projects and providing assistance to gifted children and their families. PAG's parent support group also serves as a place for parents who need help and guidance in raising their gifted children.

As the National Week for the Gifted goes on in eight-year, gifted children can look forward to a series of activities and programs designed to suit their exceptional needs. But supporting gifted children shouldn't be limited to the annual week-long celebration. Nor should it be limited to the government or families of gifted children alone.

PAG is calling on all individuals to support projects that help develop and cultivate potential in gifted children. Parents of gifted children should nurture their children's talents and capabilities. School educators and local authorities are tasked to promote and foster activities contributing to their environment. Even charitable institutions and sponsors are encouraged to support the gifted community, so that the children could get access to special schools and facilities.

When we uphold gifted children, we aren't just supporting their families. We are supporting our entire country. After all, these gifted children will one day bring pride to our country with awards and recognitions garnered locally and internationally. These children will one day become our best doctors, teachers, writers, artists, lawyers, musicians, and professionals.

Promil Pre-School, together with the Philippine Association for the Gifted, supports the celebration of the National Week for the Gifted and Talented.

INQUIRER Mindanao

Father, husband, friend of Davao folk

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Davao

HE WAS KNOWN for that voice that spoke of how the people can topple an oppressive regime. That was the time when gatherings of people were usually followed by arrests.

But the career of Marcial Ian Bo'o's persuasion, his wife Florian said, attracted her and many poor people of Davao to the man who helped set the pace for the movement for change in the city.

It was during the early 1980s when Marcial, known among his colleagues as Tibong, became a community organizer for Agdao District.

"His heart has always been for the poor and the oppressed and the victims of injustices committed by the state and their cohorts," Florian said.

Tibong, who hailed from a poor family in Bohol but moved to Agdao in the 1980s, was one of the four fatalities in the Nov. 15 blast in the House of Representatives that also killed Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar. He was the driver of Cotabato Women's Party Rep. Luzminda Ilagan, who also suffered multiple shrapnel wounds from the explosion.

FLORIAN TALIÑO, wife of Bayanan bombing victim, Marcial, speaks after husband's achievements in a speech as she joins the funeral march from St. Peter's Church to Bayanan goes for Marcial Taliño and other victims in the Bayanan bombing incident. DAVAO NEWS

Authorities found the body of Tibong inside Ilagan's service vehicle moments after the explosion. Florian said the body of her husband showed he had a painful death.

"He let his lower lip, a clear indication that he was in pain," Florian said.

She said the last text exchanges she had with her husband was just before the explosion. She had asked him what time he would be home. She never got a reply. She said she did not mind it because of his accompaniment that if he did not reply to her messages, it meant that he was already behind the wheels.

"He was supposed to pick me up at my office but I decided to go home ahead of him because he told me he might go home a little later," Florian said.

Organizer

Tibong, 54, was organizing an urban poor community in Quezon City before he was elected to work for Ilagan. He was the president of the federation ng Mahirap Bataan, an urban poor group fighting to oust the land they have been occupying for many years now.

In 1987, the couple left Davao because of threats by the anti-insurgency group Alsa Masa that targeted them, being active members of progressive organizations. Their family became part of the Davao City Displaced Families and was likewise part of a Mindanao refugee group, Kusog Mindanao.

One of the most significant of his activities in Davao was the establishment of the Alyansa Bantu sa Bansud con (Alliance Against Bombings or Attacks), which was then headed by Florian's mother, Susanna Wenceslao.

Volunteer

In Manila, Tibong volunteered as driver and messenger for various nongovernment organizations like the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace. He worked for the Save the Children Foundation, Philippine Social Science Center, Grassroot Development Agency (GTZ) and Oxfam-GB.

Sister Fe Auxiliatrix Tompkins, former executive of Save the Children (USC-Philippine Office, said Tibong was a competent and humble laborer.

His friends and relatives were not surprised when he opted to drive for Ilagan as he was the kind who was always eager to volunteer whenever skills he had to the progressive movement.

"He was always willing to help people and he never stopped out despite threats and chance that could have cost of his patience," Florian recalled.

Grace Sioval, coordinator of Gabriela Southern Mindanao and Taliño's longtime friend, said he was active in making people understand and save the environment by taking their plight.

"He was always there for them, ready to offer comfort and solution," Sioval said.

He also had no qualms doing house work, like cooking, doing the laundry and taking care of their little bastard garden, Sioval said.

Ilagan, during the short time that Tibong worked for her, described him as "a conscientious and cheerful worker who had much initiative"

He also had no qualms doing house work, like cooking, doing the laundry and taking care of their little bastard garden, Sioval said.

Ilagan, during the short time that Tibong worked for her, described him as "a conscientious and cheerful worker who had much initiative."

Missing Davao

Lourdes Gallegos, media officer of Ilagan, said Taliño wanted to go back to Davao.

"He missed Davao so much that he kept on asking me about how much the city changed. He really wanted to go back to Davao," said Gallegos who also came from Davao.

Two days before the incident, Gallegos said, Taliño told her about their compound in Quezon City, which was occupied mostly by people coming from Davao.

The same from Agdao and the people in their compound are mostly his relatives from Agdao. I told him that it appeared that he never left Davao at all," Gallegos said.

#GMANEWS group and other organizations join Davao in a march for the Mati victims. GMANEWS

FIRST, DO NO HARM.

Statement of the PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS on the Cheaper Medicine Bill

The **PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS** (PCP) fully supports the spirit behind the Cheaper Medicine Bill. The PCP's support includes measures to ensure full implementation of the Generics Law for the purpose of providing cheaper but safe and efficacious drugs. PCP recognizes that availability of affordable drugs helps the patient comply with the physician's medical treatment.

As responsible physicians, PCP supports prescribing the least costly drug if therapeutic efficacy and safety are not compromised. Patients go to their physicians with full confidence that they manifest their medical education, skill and experience in providing the best treatment for a given set of clinical circumstances. The patient-doctor relationship is sacred and cannot be undermined by legislation. The physician is ultimately responsible for the care of the patient, the choice and/or selection of the appropriate drug must remain under the physician's control.

In supporting government efforts to bring down the cost of medications, the PCP urges legislators and health policy makers to put in place adequate safeguards for the purpose of protecting patients and preventing "practice-of-medicine-at-the-drugstore-counter".

First, the law should recognize that therapeutic equivalence, palatability and safety differ among the various brands of a prescribed drug which can significantly affect patient compliance and treatment success.

Second, we lack the infrastructure to ensure drug safety and efficacy. In the course of technical working group and committee hearings, it was universally recognized – even by the most tenacious adherents of cheap medicine laws – that the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD) seriously lacks the capacity to deal with testing for safety, therapeutic and bioequivalence, and post-marketing surveillance. This is a serious issue that must be addressed by provisions of the bill.

It is not enough that drugs are affordable; it is absolutely necessary that they should be safe. Implementation of the law should be subject to a moratorium until the medical profession and health consumer advocates are confident of the BFAD's capability. Towards this end, legislation should ensure that BFAD's budget is adequate to fill necessary expansion in capacity, personnel and equipment.

Third, while the bill addresses the issue of drug pricing through a pricing council, parallel importation and amendments to the generic act, the law must likewise provide for a Drug Quality Council composed of representatives from major medical societies and other stakeholders. Again, it must be recognized that pricing, efficacy and safety go hand in hand.

Ultimately, legal responsibility for the patient's treatment rests with the physician. If these safety measures are not put in place and unqualified substitution is allowed, then the law cannot hold the physician responsible for adverse consequences. Thus, the law must include a provision shielding physicians from administrative, criminal or civil suits for adverse effects of substitutions beyond their control. Therapeutic decisions reached by physicians are based on a complex body of medical information relevant to a specific patient. It is not denied that therapeutic failure or toxicity may result from improper substitution of a drug at the pharmacy counter.

More importantly, it should be recognized that the adoption of the provision of the bill in its current form seriously puts at risk and undermines the patient-doctor relationship, which is founded on trust. Inadequate and inappropriate drug responses and adverse reactions to prescribed medications that are substituted at the drugstore level may complicate medical management, and erode the patient's confidence with his physician.

The PCP's support for efforts to bring down the cost of medicines is unqualified, but these concerns must first be addressed to ensure the proper implementation of this law. We urge Congress to incorporate these positive steps for the purpose of providing confidence in physician compliance with the law. We see no reason why physicians should not fully embrace the law if safety and efficacy concerns are fully addressed while availing of affordable medicines. In the final analysis, any effort to ensure access to cheaper drugs must likewise fulfill that ancient dictum, "Primum non nocere."

FIRST, DO NO HARM.

25 November 2007

Philippine College of Physicians and its Component and Affiliate Societies :

Philippine College of Chest Physicians • Philippine Dermatological Society • Philippine Diabetes Association • Philippine Heart Association Philippine Neurological Association • Philippine Rheumatology Association • Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Philippine Society of Allergology, Asthma and Immunology • Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism • Philippine Society of Gastroenterology • Philippine Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion • Philippine Society of Medical Oncology • Philippine Society of Nephrology • Philippine Society of Nuclear Medicine

Across the NATION

ARMM execs want Sulu poachers sued

HARD LABOR
Residents of the coastal village of Luuk, Lu Union gather various kinds and sizes of stones which they sell to exporters. Most of their products are exported to Japan. Stone jetting is a main livelihood for most of the residents.

COTABATO CITY—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY officials in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have recommended the filing of charges against 19 Chinese poachers, who were arrested in the Sulu Sea in August.

Agpad Dron Ali, ARMM agriculture said fisheries secretary Jesse dela said the Chinese poachers will remain under Philippine custody until the case has been resolved.

Indeo, Buhay Tan Usman, ARMM assistant secretary said there were efforts to secure the release of the poachers and their vessel, which is now impounded in Tawi-Tawi.

Usman said he and Ali were offered a P500,000 cash "settlement" in exchange for vast passage charges against the suspects.

Usman did not say who made the offer but added that it could have been part of an agreement made by lawyers of the firm owning the vessel.

Ali said the poachers have violated the country's fishery laws when they grabbed live turtles during a search of their boat.

Ali said the turtles reportedly came from Tawi-Tawi, all Tawi-Tawi.

Sea turtles are endangered species and the country's fishery laws prohibit their capture or collection.

"That's why even the marketing of turtle eggs, believed to be highly aphrodisiac, is strictly prohibited," Tawi Marahadong, fishery and aquatic resources director for Central Mindanao, said.

Ali said aside from the turtles, authorities also seized coral or banned marine species such as dolphins and whales from the arrested poachers.

Authorities have been helpless against poaching in Philippine waters, mainly in the Palawan area.

Many cases of poaching off Palawan area have been settled in court, leading to the release of suspects and their vessels. Charlie C. Cerbano, *Inquirer Mindanao*

ROUNDUP

2 councilors held for drugs

DAVAO, Mindanao—Police arrested two Mandaue City councilors caught in a raid session that abandoned house Wednesday.

Police identified the two Mandaue City councilors as Rodolfo Cortez III, 31, and Jesus de la Rosa, 48.

They were arrested while using two banned substance shabu. A companion, Bill Flores's escaped but was arrested the following day.

Police found in the house lighters, rolls of aluminum foil, pieces of plastic with shabu residues, scissors and tweezers.

The three are now detained at the Mandaue police station and face charges. *Jaymie Sanit, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Crime gang leader slain

CAMP CATITO, Lagunas—Police killed the alleged leader of a syndicate behind the abduction of a student in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro last month.

The gang leader, Romeo Alcantara, 48, was slain in a gunfight in Barrio, Oriental Mindoro, police said.

Senior Supt. Agustino Martinez, Oriental Mindoro police director, said Alcantara was the mastermind in the kidnapping of Dr. Benjamin Ines, 48, who was examined in his house in Victoria town Oct. 10.

Aside from kidnapping, Alcantara was also charged with 17 counts of rape by two minors more than a year ago.

Cruz said Alcantara's gang was also behind the string of robberies in the province.

Other members of Alcantara's gang are now being hunted, said Cruz. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Wait longer for new passports

CAMARIN, Oct. 0301 CITY—The Northern Mindanao Consular Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs here said the processing of passport applications would now take longer because of the implementation of a new system.

Starting Monday, DFA director Jesus dela Cruz said during Thursday this week, the DFA won't issue anymore green passports in favor of the machine-readable passports (MRPs).

He said the processing of the new passports would take 15-20 days.

The new system requires applicants to personally appear at DFA offices for their thumb prints and signatures. *Grace Alfanta, Inquirer Mindanao*

2 traders gunned down in market

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Two businessmen were gunned down by unidentified men inside a crowded public market in Biñan, Laguna early Saturday, police said.

Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., Laguna police director, identified the slain victims as Henry Agustin, 55, and Enrico Cleto, 34, both residents of Barangay Platero, Biñan.

He said the victims were busy tending to their meat stalls at the Biñan Public Market in Barangay Poblacion at around 2:30 a.m. when two unidentified men approached and shot them at close range.

The companions of the assailants served as lookouts.

The attackers fled in motorcycles toward Sta. Rosa City. No motive was determined. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

2 suicides baffle police

STA. CRUZ, Davao del Sur—Police team started investigating two cases of suicide here, which occurred in just a span of three days this week.

Insp. Ruben Pontinares, town police chief, said they wanted to make sure that there was no foul play.

On Wednesday, 22-year-old Annie Pandong of Tibolan Lote in Barangay Jose Rizal was found hanging in his house.

Pontinares quoted relatives of the suicide as saying Pandong always threatened to kill himself every time he was drunk.

On Monday, 16-year-old student Rachel Jane Bonzalan was also found lifeless in her house in Barangay Tibal-i.

Like Pandong, she apparently hanged herself. Pontinares said. *Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

24/7 condom shops to cater to Sulu folk

JOLO, SULU—THE DRUGS WERE not on exception of the five contraceptive programs but this is solely failed to exclude Sulu from becoming one of the 50 pilot areas, where birth control pills and condoms would be sold.

On Friday, the Sulu Provincial Board launched its "pop-shop," where Bisaya, who wanted birth spacing, would avail themselves of contraceptives and other health needs at low prices.

Dr. Norah Tan-Omar, provincial health chief, said the pop shop will be open 24/7.

"I should be responsible for the quality of health services our people need from contraceptive to mosquito nets, to address the critical health requirements in our province," Tan-Omar said.

Tan-Omar said the decision to sell contraceptives was brought about by the plummet of the contraceptive donations program of the United States Aid for International Development (USAID).

She said health officials wanted mechanisms to make contraceptives available to those who want it and those include selling them.

Chi Wilhlo, deputy director of the Philippine NGO Council (PN-GOC) on Population, Health and Welfare Inc., said the United Nations Population Fund and USAID used to allot P56 million for contraceptive subsidy in the country.

But Wilhlo said it will end this year.

Wilhlo said under the transition program in connection with the phaseout of the fund, local distributors have been tapped to sell contraceptives at subsidized prices in Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Isabel and Marawi.

But P560K said as in the past, there would be no coercion in the use of contraceptives in these areas although its promotion would be vigorously pursued.

"Even economists have warned that failure to curb the country's runaway population as an average of 2.36th every year, could slow down it's plan to poverty," Wilhlo said.

The government has cited many from aggressively promoting the use of artificial contraceptives to help control the country's booming population because of the staunch opposition by the Catholic Church. *Ed General, Inquirer Mindanao*

No cash, no attendance for mayors in meet

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—ALL 21 members of the Pampanga Mayors League did not attend the meeting of the Provincial Development Council that Gov. Ed-mundo Pineda convened here on Friday to discuss the investment plan for 2008.

Because no quorum had been reached, the council, on the motion of Board Member Jerome Quiambao, the only provincial board representative who came, opted to hold a caucus instead.

Concerns

The PML secretary-general, Mandaue Mayor Edgar Mortiz, clarified that the PML "did not boycott the PDC." It was the concerns of the PML that the projects intended for the 2007 budget be implemented first," he said.

He was referring to the 5% (million) worth of barangay projects that mayors recommended and which Pineda approved in July when the PDC was first convened after 12 years.

Instead of meeting, Flores said the PML sent Pineda an date of the PDC, a letter to explain the position of the mayors.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo (center) during the recent barangay elections with her proteges, Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, son of alleged gambling lord Bong Pineda and whose family was believed to wield strong influence over Pampanga's mayors.

The letter, dated Nov. 6, 2007 regarding the deferment of the disbursement of 2008 annual development plan, PML will not attend due to the non-implementation of 2007 development plan as assured by your office during the PDC meeting held on July 4, 2007," the PML said.

No cash, no attendance

The PML vice president, Bacolor Mayor Bonso Bonjero, said it was clear to the mayors that they would not get the projects in cash.

"We are expecting implementation, not cash," he said.

PML spokesperson, Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo, said he did not know about the PDC meeting since he had been sick since Monday.

Vice Gov. Jennifer Gunio, Representatives Aurelio Gonzales and Carmelo Lazatin and Sen. Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez sent their represen-tatives to the meeting.

All seven elected representatives of people's organizations and nongovernment organizations were present.

Palace affair

Pineda declined to call the PMPC mass absence as a boycott. It was seen as such by many quarters here after Pineda and the mayors differed on how the governor handled the issue of his morning P500,000 as Malacañang last Oct. 11.

Most of the mayors were supportive of deposed gubernatorial candidate Lilia Pineda whose recount bid against Pineda has yet to push through.

"I was expecting them and I'm trying to understand them. They resented the process where we explained the new system in implementing projects," he said. "I wish they would come now once."

At least 392 million of the P446-million 2007 development funds will be bid out starting May 27. Unlike before, every project now has a detailed program of works, which Pineda said would "fully benefit the mayors' constituencies." Evarito Origan, *Inquirer Central Luzon*

Gov't allots ₱30M to repair Samar, Negros mines

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOVERNment has allotted P30 million for the rehabilitation of two abandoned mine sites in Western Samar and Negros Oriental, mining officials said here.

The two mine sites are both in critical condition but the abandoned site in Western Samar will receive the bulk of the budget, according to Michael Cabalda, secretary of the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA).

"P30 million may be a small amount for now, but it is enough to take the defined objectives of rehabilitation. The amount will be enough to utilize the site and to make sure that the place is more safe and environment friendly," he said.

He, however, said a natural process is taking place to the abandoned mine sites which is aiding their rehabilitation.

Cabalda also said the government has listed 15 mine sites which are being considered for rehabilitation.

"Included in the rehabilitation are mined areas which were abandoned 20 years ago. We will go back in these sites to rehabilitate them. We can no longer afford to have mines which are not safe," he said.

He said the 15 mine sites are in different states of deterioration and the government is outlining programs to seriously address their impact on the environment.

The government's rehabilitation program is under Executive Order 270 or the National Policy Agenda on Revitalizing Mining which mandates the rehabilitation of abandoned mines as top priority.

Rodolfo Manzo, head of training rendezvous and safety division of the Mines Geosciences Bureau, said the government would require mining companies applying for exploration permits and mines of production sharing agreements to submit the environmental protection and enhancement program (EPEP) to ensure that rehabilitation would take place.

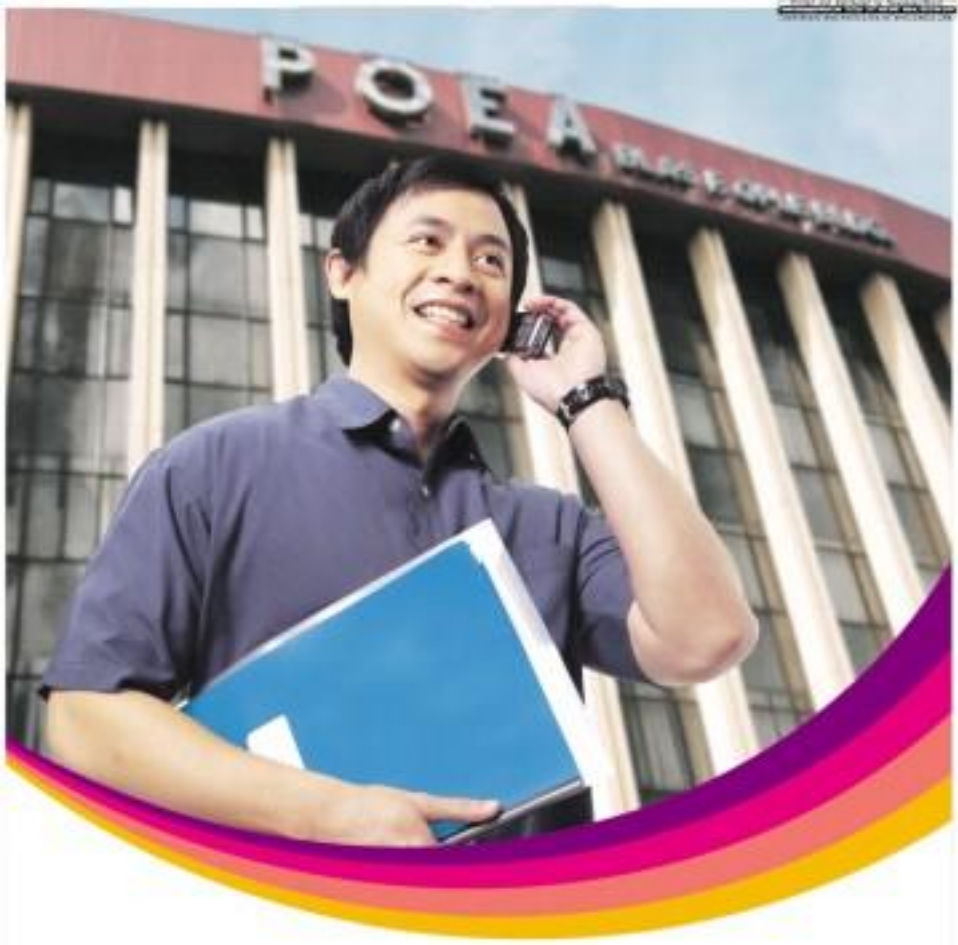
"With the EPEP, the mines could operate while implementing the rehabilitation programs. After 10 years, the mines could implement the final mine rehabilitation program and demonstrate any gains," he said. Beatrice Collera, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

More Sports stories on A25 to 28

Late SPORTS

Li notches win No 4; So in hunt

Standings after last two rounds (Caissbase) — 1. Li (China) 3.5; 2. Zhang (Singapore) 3; 3–16. So (RP), Ni Hua (China), Yu Yangyi (China), Ye Jiangchuan (China), Ni Zhong (China), Yu Shaoteng (China), Wang Yue (China), Li Chao (China), Ye Jiangchuan



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Priest helps kids kick street habits

By Jeannette I. Andrade

IF FRENCH PRIEST JEAN-François Thomas were to have his way, he would prefer that the Tulay ng Kabataan (Bridge for Children) Foundation cease to operate because it would mean that there were no impoverished children languishing in the streets of Metro Manila.

TALES OF THE CITY

But until that day comes, Thomas, the 58-year-old executive director of the TNK, said he and his volunteers would continue to wean children from what he calls the "habits of the streets."

"There is a need, and the problem will not be solved in the next few years. I want to close down the TNK because then it would mean those children already live decently, that there is still a need for the foundation," the Jesuit priest, who teaches philosophy at the Ateneo de Manila University told the Inquirer.

For almost a decade, Thomas and his staff, composed of coordinators, psychologists, social workers, street educators, nurses and teachers, have been saving children...victims of violence, drugs, prostitution and hopelessness...from a life on the streets.

In 1996, he was sent by the Jesuits to the country to help out the needy. In 1998, Thomas formed the foundation after he saw the plight of the poor children. He has not left since then.

FATHER Thomas and his "co-mates."

Asian culture

Asked why he, a foreigner, was interested in helping the poor when other Filipinos would rather ignore them, Thomas replied, "Sometimes I can't grasp why this is so. This is the Asian culture, but maybe, people feel shy about being poverty."

But he pointed out that not all Filipinos feel the same way as he pointed his staff. "I have great admiration for them. They are so dedicated to their work. They don't do it for the money but out of compassion. They want the children to have a future."

He recounted how their social workers or street educators, as he preferred to call them, toil day and night to 'fit different areas in Metro Manila to convince relevant abusers, street gang members, children who have turned to prostitution and scavenging to abandon their 'habits' and grow up to be productive individuals.

Thomas explained that he prefers to use the word "habit" because some of the children entrusted by the foundation find it very difficult to resist the temptation of returning to a life in the streets.

But he stressed that the kids are always free to leave the center as long as they know that there are places and people like those in the foundation who would willingly take them back should they change their mind.

Citation

The French priest, who was recently awarded the Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honor) by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, through French Ambassador to the Philippines Gerard Chesnel, recalled that his foundation "started little by little in a modest and simple way."

"There used to be only one center. But now, there are many homes," Thomas said, referring to 20 drop-in centers which are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for street children seeking shelter. There are two others for the care of the mentally handicapped.

The foundation has a bridge that spot-

PRIEST ALSO

"THE PROBLEMS of children are so many but I'm not so despair," says the Jesuit priest.

Priest helps kids ...

Foreign A21

four days a week to children staying in the TSE centers. It helps prepare those who have dropped out of school to resume their formal education.

The foundation likewise operates a boarding home which looks after 25 teenagers and trainees enrolled in the foundation's carpentry program. The furniture made by the students are sold later by the foundation.

The TSE also has five early learning centers which cater to children between the ages of three and six.

Poorest of the poor

Although he has impressive credentials—a doctorate in philosophy from Le Sorbonne in Paris and a master's degree in theology from Cambridge in the United States—Thomas said he prefers to work with the poorest of the poor.

"I am always a beggar looking for funds," he said with a shrug. In addition to his work, he also has been traveling frequently to Australia to appeal for contributions.

Thomas said the youngest child in the care of one of the centers is three years old while the eldest is 19 years old.

408 rescues annually

He can no longer recall how many children the foundation has helped since it opened its doors in March 1984. What he will remember, however, are the faces of the children he has rescued.

"Every year, around 408 children are rescued. Five of them 'recruited' on more village emotions; many are in the secondary and primary levels.

Most of the children were recruited by TSE street educators who were invited over to their centers by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Thomas expressed admiration for Filipinos in depressed areas who continue to find resourcefulness. "I am very impressed. In my case, I am French, [so] [illegible] can't have to struggle in order to survive," he pointed out.

"But you (Filipinos), even if you are facing difficulties, you still able to smile," he said.

"The teacher, my very own mom, I believe that is one of the strongest of the Filipinos, being able to [illegible]"

THE PRIEST says he learned to love patience in the Philippines. "It is a result but he is able to smile and love no matter. This is one of the virtues of the Filipino that I learned."

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UR VAN, UR BUSINESS

URVAN

SHIFT...the Future

NISSAN

UMC's Ur Van, Ur Business helps make hard-earned OFW money grow.

For every story of an Overseas Filipino, there is a long-silenced and waiting-to-family-prosper, there effects a tale of this OFW who toiled for many years, only to return to a life no better than the one he left.

The difference may lie in the family's decision-making - that is, what to do with the money the OFW made.

While many find it tempting to splurge on expensive luxuries with the sweat of those dollars, financial experts always suggest not spend too much of one's income on such items - at least, not until one has sufficient savings, or better still, investments. Before anything else they say, it pays to use your money to make more money.

Making your money work for you

It comes as no surprise these days, UMC prefers to invest in other businesses. Specifically "Ur Van, Ur Business".

As part of its UMUB efforts to spot entrepreneurship in the Filipino with the underlying principle of helping others help themselves, UMC has instituted the "Sparkle Mo, Negosyo" - a program designed for OFWs (including their families) more options for a self-sustaining mobile business venture.

"The overseas Filipino workers, our modern-day heroes, and their families should have more avenues for making their savings work for them," says Elizabeth Lee, EVP of Universal Motors Corporation.

"We wish to see the OFW and his family get the most out of their hard-earned money. We want to help them realize that the Nissan Urvan can be an investment tool capable of moving them forward," she continues.

The Nissan Urvan comes in variants that can seat 12, 15 or 18 people. Structural specifications assures years of service and low maintenance and its variety of configurations offer many possible business opportunities: commercial shuttle, cargo van, or even a roving tiangge. The possibilities are limitless.

UMC also provides added assistance through the Nissan Negosyo Academy, an entrepreneurial education program initiated to assist Nissan buyers looking to start their own businesses, and how to best use the Nissan Urvan to their advantage.

Assistance for All

The help that UVUB extends to those wishing to improve their lives does not end there.

For every Urvan bought under the Ur Van, Ur Business program, a P1,000 donation is given to the Center for Common Ability Transformation's micro financing arm, giving seed money to underprivileged entrepreneurs, helping them start their own micro-business or other Urvan buyers and up helping fellow Filipinos become micro-entrepreneurs.

CCT president Ruth S. Cuevas says that UMC shares a common vision of a country free Philippines. "The UVUB program is different from other business advocacies in that it is integral to a community's business," she notes.

"Our underlying principle of making a difference in other people's lives can be realized by continuing to grow the program to help even more people access going," says Ms. Lee. "We measure our success by how much we contribute to the success of our customers."

With the success of the UVUB and its effect of helping others, Nissan would seek in planning to replicate the program in several countries.

Starting Us com Business

For those interested in the UMUB and Ur Van, Ur Business program, text your name, address and contact number to 0917-63-URVAN. You can also email UMC at ufe@nissan.com.ph or visit your nearest Nissan dealer.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

"LET ME say that traveling for me now is not the best of times because travelers also is the payback on safety-ing as in the only country where we can feel safe and respected."
RUDY LIBEMAN, August 2006

Email us at: global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

Read us your feedback in:

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and whatever work can be motivated to secure a better life in their families. These are their stories.

Dollar weak but he's going strong

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

EARNING DOLLARS is not as lucrative as it was a couple of years ago, with the continued weakening of the greenback against the peso, my dad told me through a text message.

And so, in the middle of the Caribbean, my father, Bonito, who has been working abroad as a seafarer for the last 27 years, asked my older brother and I to spend wisely the money he sends for the upkeep of our house and whatever miscellaneous expenses we need.

A chief engineer, my dad is one of the millions of OFWs whose income had "shrunk" amidst the strong peso.

It's a good thing then that my mom, Tomasita, who manages the funds my dad earns, is one of the thriftiest people in the world. I have always told her that had thriftiness been a crime, she'd end up locked up in jail for sure.

Real estate

Realizing my dad won't be able to work abroad forever, my parents invested in real estate. Through the years, my parents had acquired several parcels of land in Laguna, where we live, and built apartments on them.

They started dabbling in real estate in the early 1990s when they bought an old house in San Pablo City and renovated it themselves before they rented it out.

"Kuya Ken, the six-door apartment had rearranged back the money my parents used to purchase it. They did the same thing to three more apartments they bought in the late decade.

And while my dad spends months on board cargo ships, my mom is so busy on land.

Here, she manages our apartments with the help of my brother, Bonito Jr. Together, they collect the monthly rentals of our apartments which total to 20 doors. My mom also supervises whatever repairs necessary to keep the rooms in pristine condition.

100 doors for rent

"I will retire when we already had 100 doors for rent," I remember my father telling me in jest over lunch a few years ago. This because he used to tell me that he would be able to earn the same amount he makes working abroad.

At the moment, my mom is overseeing the construction of two more apartments in Glendines, Laguna, the blueprints of which were designed by my brother. This would add another eight doors. Her dad but still a long way to go to hit the 100 mark, my dad said.

My older brother, who is taking up nursing as a second course, on the other hand, manages the property my parents recently bought. He is in charge of looking after the furniture and kitchen items we had planted while my parents decide on what to do with the land.

An OFW in the making, my brother's plans on leaving the country after finishing his medical course. He, like me, is married to Ashley, with the help of his wife, Michelle, to supervise the construction of a convenience store we would be putting up in our barangay soon.

Remitter, currency changer

Living and working in Makati has kept me from helping in the maintenance of our properties as I am only home in Laguna for a day every week. Although, whenever I get the chance, I accompany my mom to the apartments in Alabang the other month.

Being the most adept in the family when it comes to banking and finances, I often advise my parents on which banks would give a highest yield for our time deposits. Always on the go, I also occasionally look for potential properties which my parents might want to consider buying.

But even before my parents had enough savings to buy our parcels of land, my father had always found a way to earn more than extra income.

While at sea, my dad would act as the ship's currency changer and remitter. Instead of his crewmates sending their savings through banks or remittance companies, they would rather transact business with my dad.

What happens is that my father, after receiving the dollars from his crewmates, would send a text message to my mom with the contact details of the money's recipient. My mom, in turn, would then call the person, or persons, to the bank account of the recipient in the country.

They earn a couple of bucks from every transaction by monitoring the dollars this peace-loving on exchange rate which is a lot lower than the prevailing rate in the market during the time of the transaction.

In a way, my father is happy to help his crewmates. He sends their money to the Philippines fast, more subtle, they are on board the ship, without inconvenience, moving them in any way.

Spending on leisure

Not only that, my dad also occasionally sells cell phone loads to his crewmates. After receiving a text message from my dad, my mom sends the pin numbers of the cell phone loads which my dad, in turn, sells to his crewmates.

Growing up, our parents religiously saved. There are things we needed, but never in excess. There were no major decisions in my life made without the blessing of my father when, even minimum, communicated request because of the hard work he had put in for the family.

It is always a simple gathering when my dad comes home every year. He would arrive only with two suitcases which contained his clothes and some important documents. Barely does he go home with bulkbuyer boxes and it would be a feast if he comes home with packs of chocolates. Occasionally, though, there would be perfumes for my mom.

This, I later realized, is how well my dad gives value to the money he earns. Lately on, they had instituted in my brother and I how hard it was to earn money abroad.

Travel

While other OFWs would go home dad in pieces of jewelry, my dad would roam better wearing the same clothes he left with a year ago.

While my parents break their backs in working nonstop, save in a while, they also spend on leisure activities. Early this year, my parents toured the United States and Mexico and are already planning a trip to Europe next year.

With my dad's earnings, we also managed to buy four different vehicles.

Grandparents to my brother's 2-year old daughter, Caryle Faye, must-aged dad could not be happy enough to indulge the kid with children's books and educational toys to play with.

Invested years back, my dad tried his luck in running a business venture which he hoped would earn a comparable amount of money to what he is earning abroad as he would stay in the country.

He partnered with a friend, a fellow seafarer, and together, they put up a maritime recruitment agency. But a couple of months, the business looked promising. They were sending hundreds of people abroad.

Fishpond

But the earnings weren't enough to support the family, especially because my brother and I were still going to school then. My dad was forced to work abroad again.

It was at this period that the recruitment agency got into a difficult time and was not making money. My father decided to leave the partnership after he retired hand. His money he invested in the seaman.

My mom and dad are well on their way to their 50s. Retirement pops into the picture. My dad's latest investment, a fishpond he bought in Los Baños, Laguna, is what he plans to focus on when he finally decides to stay and settle in the country for good.

My dad, who grew up helping his father sell their ham in Bicol, believes that breeding tilapia and other kinds of fishes would be the perfect business venture for him. More than those the 3,000-door apartments he initially wanted, he hopes.

Realizing that one can't work abroad forever, my parents invested in real estate and a fishpond, which came with a reminder for us his sons to spend wisely because the dollar is no longer what it used to be

A SERPENT'S CATCH. Manila del Rosario proudly shows his grandaughter Caryle Faye one of the fruits of his overseas labor: a three-door apartment in San Pablo City.

Uphill battle to pass the veterans equity bill

ALEXIS BELA, 83-YEAR-OLD widow of a Filipino World War II veteran who is at present residing in San Francisco, California expressed her disgust when I told her that it would take probably another 15 years before her daughter can get a visa based on her petition. This is based on current immigration processing time filed for adult children.

For your, Alex Bela is filed a new petition for her wife married to a Filipino veteran. Her petition filed by her husband was automatically rescinded when the latter died exactly on years ago. Alex Bela's feelings of weariness are valid as she slowly realizes that the issuance of the visa for her daughter is not happening soon. She says that she would be 100 years old in fifteen years and will be lucky if she's still alive by that time.

Descendants of Filipino World War II veterans always ask the question as to when they can join their aging parents in the United States. It must be understood that this veterans issue is not just a family reunification issue. It is primarily an issue of a historical injustice when the provisions of the 1946 Rescission Act was enacted, thereby any Filipino veterans of their disenfranchisement as US veterans. If this 1946 provision had not been enacted into law, then the war veterans and their families probably would have been new residents of the US.

There are, of course, political reasons why it did not happen that way.

The veterans bills

Now that most of these veterans are diminishing in number at a faster rate, the pressure to pass the Equity Bill in the US Congress becomes significantly relevant.

Sir these Filipino World War II veterans who are still around, their hopes are for their family to join them in the US and the the equity bill to be passed in the US Congress. Both of these issues require legislative action.

IMFO
Lourdes Sorrios Francisco

The special legislation giving preference to the sons and daughters of Filipino World War II veterans to go to the US is now incorporated in the proposed Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill for which no action has been taken by both houses of Congress.

In the same manner the HR. 1315 Veterans Equity Bill pending with the 110 US Congress has been heard by both the Senate and the House awaiting for vote on the floor hopefully by the end of this year.

In 1990 when the Immigration Act was passed after half a century of advocacy for naturalization by Filipino veterans, thousands came to the US to live their dreams.

But what some foresaw as a dream turned into a nightmare as their dreams and hope to be treated as US veterans remained elusive. Many died hoping that the equity bill would be passed. Mr. Hidalgo, on his death bed, told his family that he would like to see equity pass for his veterans colleagues. Mr. Pasila, who is very sick, returned to the US as he heard that the equity bill was close to being passed. He collapsed in my office because of old age and weakness.

The lobby

But lobbying to have the bill passed is not a one-time thing. Neither does it belong only to one organization. It requires a collaboration of effort from all sectors of the community. There are always big challenges that are being experienced in the last 21 years when the equity bill was introduced in Congress.

There are several roadblocks on the path to the passage of veterans equity.

First, different lobby groups advocate for different positions. One group advocates only for veterans residing in the US and excludes those residing in the Philippines. The other group of which I represent only advocates for full equity supporting only a bill that will benefit all veterans irrespective of residence. The challenge of opinions resulted in confusion among supporters and even among legislators, considering that there is no one position represented.

Second, many groups are engaged in mere rhetoric and grandstanding than actually pushing passage of the bill. Like in the recent celebrations and events honoring the veterans but no specific actions is taken or a statement is made to engage in the lobby effort.

Third, there is a lack of focus from different organizations, and even the current administration only recently announced this year its support for full equity.

And lastly there is a lot of misinformation in the media glorifying feminism or mental achievements related to the veterans issue that are not even close to passing the equity bill.

Challenge

There must be a strong commitment to join the campaign and find the focus to unify on one position. Unless real action is taken by each and every Filipino American in collaboration and support of all various national organizations including the current administration, the campaign for full equity will be an endless dream.

There may be reasons and circumstances that we may have inhibited in the past but are making this campaign an uphill battle for those who believe in the cause. I challenge them to have the courage of their convictions to stand up for what is right. We owe our veterans no less, the Filipinos and the democracy we all enjoy. They deserve no less than equity.

(Lourdes is chair of the San Francisco Veterans Equity Center. She may be reached at lmsf@sanmateo.com or (650) 867-7177)

The WORLD

Edna Lorraine B. Olaroa

Lebanon faces fresh turmoil as presidency ends in chaos

BEIRUT—LEBANON FACED AN EXPLOSIVE power vacuum Saturday as President Emile Lahoud stepped down at the end of his term with no elected successor and a raging feud over who was in charge in the politically divided nation.

Lahoud, who is backed by Syria and Iran, walked out of the presidential palace in a despite ceremony at midnight Friday.

Before leaving office, he said he was handing over responsibility to the country's security to the army a move slammed by pro-Western rival Prime Minister Fuad Siniora as unconstitutional.

The standoff prompted global calls for calm and for Lebanon's fractious leaders to find a compromise in the political deadlock that has gripped the country for the past year.

Speaking to reporters, Lahoud warned that "if they do not elect a new constitutional president, with the required two-third majority, we have more who can stand up."

He also announced his view that Siniora's government was "illegal and unconstitutional, whatever America and France and others would say."

With tanks and troops on the streets of Beirut to maintain security, lawmakers from the Western-backed majority said the Hezbollah-led opposition had been scheduled to convene on Friday in a final bid to elect Lahoud's successor.

But the session was postponed, for the fifth time in two months. A new vote has been scheduled for Nov. 30.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people, mostly supporters of parliamentary majority leader Saad Hariri, hired Lahoud's exit in central Beirut's Tarik Jadideh quarter with traditional dances.

"We are celebrating because Lahoud's mandate was the darkest in Lebanon's history," said local resident Mounir Homeroud.

"It is during this mandate that all these martyrs were assassinated, including former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri," he said.

Rafiq Hariri, Saad's father, was killed in a 2005 massive Beirut bombing that has been widely blamed on neighboring Syria, which was subsequently forced to end 29 years of military domination in Lebanon.

Lahoud, a Christian Maronite and a former army chief who has been head of state since 1998, had vowed not to hand power to Hariri.

Instead, presidential spokesperson Rafiq Shalala announced Friday night that Lahoud had divided up hand over to the army responsibility for maintaining order as "there are conditions and risks on the ground that could lead to a state of emergency."

However, an official in Prime Minister Siniora's office said Lahoud's actions "is not valid and [is] unconstitutional. It is as if the statement was never issued."

Following a Friday night cabinet meeting, Siniora said the government would carry on with its duties after midnight.

The long-running standoff has prompted fears that two rival governments could be formed, as was the case at the end of the 1975-1990 civil war.

The ruling coalition had rallied on all MPs to attend Friday's session to elect a new president but the opposition said it would boycott the vote. AFP

IN THIS photo released by Chile's Navy, the Liberian-flagged Explorer cruise ship it sank sinking after it hit ice in Antarctic waters on Nov. 23.

An icy rescue as seas claim cruise ship

THEY WERE HEROES ALWAYS. Until Saturday, following the doomed cruise of Ernest Shackleton in the frozen ends of the Earth.

They paid $7,000 to $14,000 to cruise on ship that had proudly plowed the Antarctic for 40 years.

But sometime early Friday, the Explorer, fondly known in the maritime world as "the little red ship," quietly sank in ice.

There were the silences, then the captain's voice on the public address system, telling the 100 passengers and the crew of about 50 to the lecture hall, according to passengers' accounts on the radio and others relayed from rescuers and the tour operator.

In the lecture hall, they were told that water was creeping in through a 4-by-4-foot hole punched into the ship's starboard. As it flooded the grinding engine rooms, the power failed. The ship ceased responding.

"We all got a little nervous when the ship began to list sharply, and the lifeboats still hadn't been lowered," John Cartwright, a Canadian, told CBC radio.

About 1:30 a.m., the passengers climbed down ladders on the ship's side into open lifeboats and inflatable craft.

They hobbled for some four hours in the rough seas and biting winds as the sun rose and the day brightened, snuffed out between the 10-degree air and the vanity freezing waters. Their crippled ship turned lazy circles in the misty ocean.

And then a research ship and a Norwegian cruise liner that had heard the distress call approached.

"There was a long line of black rubber Zodiac boats and a handful of orange lifeboats," Lewis said, and it was very surreal because it was a very beautiful morning with the sun glistening off the whales-by-zodiac sea," said Jon Shenk, director, a travel writer and filmmaker who was aboard the research ship, the National Geographic Endeavour, and was rushed by satellite phone: "And all you could think was how relieved these people must have been when they saw these two big ships coming."

It was not immediately possible Friday to reach the passengers, among them 14 Americans, 11 Britons, 12 Canadians and a smattering of other nationalities. But they were in good spirits, said Capt. Arnold Hansen of the Nordnorge, who was reached by telephone about 10 hours after the rescue. NYT

Exit poll says Howard loses Australia election

SYDNEY—THE FIRST EXIT POLL in Australia's elections predicted a landslide win for opposition Labor, with voters ousting the 11-year-old conservative government and possibly denying Prime Minister John Howard historic one more.

A Sky television exit poll of 31 marginal government seats forecast a 20-seat gain for the Labor leader Kevin Rudd. Labor needs to win an extra 16 seats to take office.

The exit poll of 2,707 voters by Auspoll gave Labor 53 percent of the vote and the ruling Liberal party 47 percent.

"We very likely think Labor has won this election. Something in the order of 30-odd seats," said Auspoll's John Armitage.

Polling in Victoria and New South Wales, the nation's most populous states, ended at 6 p.m.

Howard, 68, has trailed in opinion polls all year with some forecasting a landslide victory for Labor, but surveys in the final days of the campaign said the contest was much tighter.

Auspoll said a sample of 910 voters in Howard's marginal Sydney electorate showed the voters' ambitions, who has held his seat since entering parliament in 1974, had been damaged.

If Howard has lost Bennelong, he will be the first prime minister to lose his own seat in an election for 78 years.

Howard is a staunch US ally and if reelected has committed to keeping Australian troops in Iraq. He has offered voters A$34 billion (US$29 billion) in tax cuts, but few new policies.

Rudd has pledged to withdraw combat troops from Iraq and sign the Kyoto Protocol, further isolating Washington on both.

The Manchester-speaking former diplomat avoided also he expected to forge closer ties with China and other Asian countries.

Howard kept up his grass-roots campaigning amid the polls closed in Sydney in a desperate bid to win a fifth straight term. Reuters

PRIME Minister John Howard

Return of killer jellyfish

BELFAST—A HUGE swarm of killer jellyfish stinging a second week can threaten lobster, crab and salmon farm, researching the Indian office wiping out the adults earlier, producers said Friday.

Around 150,000 stocky were killed off by the billions of masses stingers to the mention on the south-east coast of County Antrim.

The attack comes just over a week after the jellyfish killed more than 300,000 adult fish worth more than one million pounds ($2.1 million), in the mainly on Glenarm Bay and Red Bay.

The mystery message in fact first on the year-old "gossamer" his cost the helicopter Northern Salmon Co. Ltd. another 300,000 pounds and losses a to an even more per from situation.

"That farm has been there for 20 years and that is the first time anything has happened like this," said manager Adrian Morrow.

"We can't do any subsea farmers in Northern Ireland and, if we cannot get some financial help for this, then it looks like it is bleak future for us."

"It will take us two years, if we can recover, to get stocks back up again. AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

Blasts in India courts kill 13

NEW DELHI—Indian authorities considered explosives on Saturday in three courts believed to be behind a series of Islamic outside courts in three cities that left at least 13 dead and more than 40 wounded. Police said the blasts in northern Uttar Pradesh state on Friday afternoon were targeting lawyers.

They are questioning a cyber cafe owner in connection with a threatening e-mail sent just before the blasts, media reports said. "Now the Islamic nationalist which is going to take place against lawyers within minutes," said the message received by some television news channels. The e-mail accused lawyers in the state of beating up people falsely accused by the police of terrorism, adding this advocates "refused to take their cases and didn't allow others to take their cases." AFP

US calls for proof Colombia hostages alive

BETANCOURT

BOGOTA (AFP)—The United States on Friday urged Colombian rebels to provide proof that hostages were alive, but stopped short of backing Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in his stymied efforts to negotiate in the crisis. "We continue to call on the fact to prevent proof of life of all hostages," a US State Department spokesperson told AFP when asked about Colombian President Alvaro Uribe's decision to end Chavez's mediation for a prisoner swap deal with the rebel rebels. Uribe said Wednesday that he considered Chavez's role as a mediator in the crisis was over because the Venezuelan leader had ignored his demand not to speak directly with Colombian generals about the hostages. But on Thursday Chavez called on the leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc), Manuel Marulanda, to provide proof that 45 prominent hostages are alive, adding any freed hostages would be welcome in Venezuela. The Uribe administration is trying to strike a deal with Farc, which has offered to release 45 high profile hostages, including French-Colombian politician Ingrid Betancourt and three Americans captured in 2003 during a US-backed anti-drug operation, in exchange for 500 jailed rebels. AFP

Suicide bomb kills 6 Afghan school kids

KABUL—A suicide bomb on the outskirts of the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday killed six schools children and wounded three Italians working on a project to build a bridge, an Interior Ministry spokesperson said. The bomber-turned Taliban have killed at least 200 civilians in more than 140 suicide attacks so far this year in their campaign to overthrow pro-Western Afghan government and oust the more than 65,000 foreign troops from the country. The wounded Italians were civilian aid workers, he said. Reuters

Surge brings new immigration backlog in US

WASHINGTON—US authorities are swamped in new bureaucratic backlogs resulting from an unanticipated flood last summer of applications for citizenship and for residence visas, officials said. In July and August alone, the federal Citizenship and Immigration Services agency received 2.5 million applications, including petitions for naturalization as well as for the entire range of immigrant visas. That was more than double the total applications the agency received in the same two months in 2006, said a spokesperson. Bill Wright. In the 2007 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, the agency received 1.4 million petitions from legal immigrants to become US citizens, about double the number of naturalization petitions in the 2006 fiscal year, Wright said. NYT

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Sunday SPORTS

WHAT'S INSIDE
Celtics trip Lakers; Wizards prevail /A28

QUIET. Pharwood of Hapee momentarily loses possession of the basketball in yesterday's game.

Bobby triumphs; Manny arrives in LA for Nike ad

BOBBY PACQUIAO DECKED A BLEEDING eight-time champion and stopped Mexican Fernando Vargas in the fourth round yesterday at the Mandalay Casino Resort and Spa in Las Vegas, California.

Manny Pacquiao missed the fight as he had just arrived in Los Angeles when Bobby ended Vargas's night early. The Filipino ring icon, who is set to shoot a Nike commercial with other big-named athletes, was reportedly notified upon learning of the result of the bout.

Bobby Pacquiao dragged off several counts in the bout by Vargas and applied heavy pressure to the body of the Mexican for the knockout, which ended a two-bout losing streak.

Pacquiao now has 28 wins against 15 defeats. He has 3 draws. Vargas took his 12th loss in 43 fights. Anthony L. Luguinsay

Hapee keeps streak alive

Comets fan q'final bid

By Jaclaire W. Pays

HAPEE'S AMALEDO IAN CONTRERAS, while Hoad and Mono fortified its feet for a quarterfinal berth at the start of the semifinal round of Jhe PBL 9-On Eskwater Energy Drink Cup yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

Mark Barkwon provided over a torrid third-quarter shooting as unbeaten Hapee streaked to its eighth straight triumph with a 93-85 decision over Thailand Comets.

Coach Jun Noel and his Complete Protection were determined to keep the top spot despite entering an outright semifinal berth along with Batang Pier last Tuesday.

"We achieved our goal, we wanted to get the No. 1 spot going into the semis," said Noel.

Earlier, Dale Mina buried the clutch bankers to De-Outwitting seconds to fill Hoad and Shoe gear window Bacchus, 76-73, for the final 3 lead.

"We know that it's not a free ride, that it's not given in ordinary plateau," said Comets coach Allan Gregorio.

Triple double

Barkwon—the same hero in Hapee's nail-biting 77-76 win over Hadana in the eliminations—unloaded 19 of his 25 points in a third-quarter run from 55-53 that boosted the Complete Protectors ahead by as much as 22 points, 77-55.

Gabe Norwood had a triple-double performance of 24 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists as the Complete Protectors ruled Pool A.

In the pool round, teams in each group clash in round robin games deciding their records in the eliminations.

Pool A squads have secured early incentives for the said phase, hosting Pool B teams to fight for the last three quarterfinal berths.

Bacchus, winless in eight games, must win its next game versus Phoenix to remain in the running for a quarterfinal slot.

Northern Cement (6-8) vs 4-5).

The scores:

First Game

MEN, AMO MORE 96—Andaya 4, Mina 13, Santos 10, Gabrillo 12, Crispin 5, Enriquez 8, Bautista 5, Zamar 3, Lhuillier 2, Alfaro 5, Rosas 2, Zapata.

BACCHUS 73—Cagulio 12, Raymundo 12, Mendoza 10, Sumerano 8, Fernandez 8, Martinez 7, Flores 5, Gonzaga 4, Jones 3, Montenegro 3, Zapata 2, Lumagui 1, Mangahas 0, Ingalsbe.

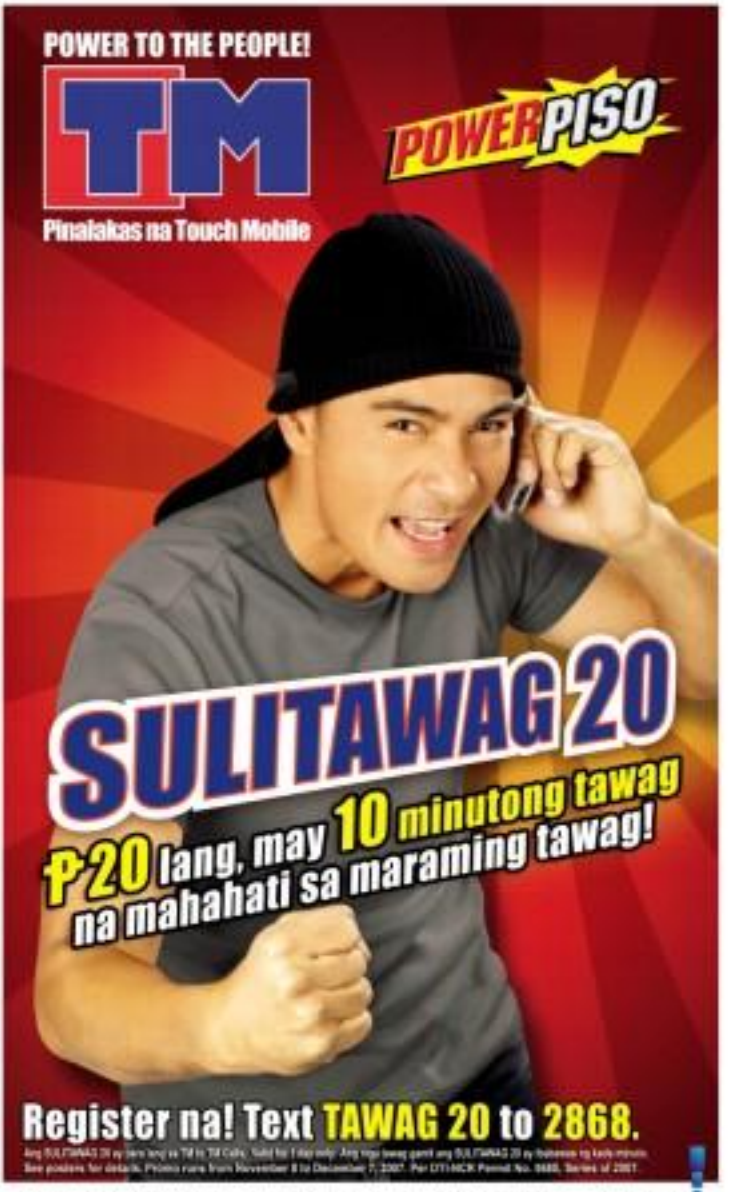
Quarters: 19-18, 33-32, 64-56, 73-73

Second Game

HAPEE 93—Andaya 19, Jumbo 14, Ramirez 12, Rodriguez 10, Mayo 10, Mendoza 7, Yap 5, Cagulio 4, Alvarez 3, Gonzalez 3, Ferrer 2, Tolentino 2, Ingalsbe 1, Mercado 0, Ingalsbe 0.

THAILAND COMETS 85—Barkwon 25, Norwood 24, Gregorio 11, Tang 8, Ibarra 5, Fernandez 7, Andaya 2, Arboleda 2, Alvarez 4, Gallardo 2, Vergara 2, Bautista 0, Agbayani 0, Mercado 0, Ingalsbe 0.

Quarters: 20-15, 36-32, 57-53, 85-85



DIRECT HIT KERMIT Cintron (right) connects with a right to the face of Juan Poblete during the fourth round of their IBF welterweight championship bout in Los Angeles Friday. Cintron stopped Poblete in the 12th round to keep his crown. He, however, broke his right hand with the strong punch. AP/FILE

Miñoza shoots 68, barges into top 10

FRASER MIÑOZA LIFTED HIS STEPS AS THE COUNTRY'S No. 1 golfer Saturday morning up to the top 10 after three rounds of the Casio Open in the Japan Tour while his competitors continued to struggle in separate events in the region.

Already a winner in the Japan circuit this season, Miñoza stood poised for another big payday by moving into a two-way tie for eighth place at 211 after shooting a four-under par 68 to go with earlier rounds of 73-70 at the Ibaraki Kasumigaseki Country Club's course.

The Philippine Open winner has thrown his name into the ring for another shot at the Casio Open leader Chris Campbell of Australia, who fired a 64 for 207, just a shot in front of Japan's Toru Taniguchi and Korean's Li Ouang.

Meanwhile, Antonio Lascuña and Gerald Rosales stayed in a two-way tie for 22nd place in the field of 26 after three rounds of the $1-million Omega Mission Hills World Cup in Shenzhen, China.

After rallying with a four-under 66, the Filipinos rookies totaled 208 which was 12 strokes behind the leading United States partnership of Ron Whitley and Heath Slocum, who had a 66 for 196.

In Hanoi, Marc Pucay and Antonio Mendoza were within a stroke of each other in the middle of the field going into the final round of the $500,000 Hana Bank Vietnam Masters.

Pucay struggled with a 73 after earlier rounds of 72-68 and was in a six-way tie for 18th at 214. Mendoza had a 72 after a 71-70 and was deadlocked for 20th at 215.

Chawalit Plaphol of Thailand grabbed the third-round lead with a 67 for 205, a stroke in front of England's Simon Dyson who carded a 68 after the Haiko Phoenix Golf Resort course. From the wires

PETE Sampras hits a return against Roger Federer during their exhibition game at the Venetian Macao yesterday. —

Stehmeier-Floro leads

DESSOM DUSEROS BEBE STEHMEIER AND Valeriano "Boxer" Floro both cracked par in their opening round at the Palmer course and positioned themselves for a two duo-title championship in the Members Cup, December cancer tournament of the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Stehmeier turned in a spectacular five-under par 67 gross while Floro bashed him up with a 71 from the blue tees as they seized the lead in both the overall net and gross divisions.

At the end of the first half of competitions, Kling and Bones were six points clear of the next team in the net standings and 11 ahead in the gross rankings. When they return to Orchard to tackle the Player course today, Floro and Stehmeier will be bidding to become the first pair to sweep both awards in the 11-year history of Members Cup hosted by Globe Telcom, Security Bank/MasterCard, Smith Bells, Citimotors/Subaru Industries, 888/PhilAir Alabang, Sta. Lucia Realty, Philippine Airlines and Milestar as major sponsors.

The other teams leading the race in the other division at the Palmer course are Dante Bravante/Horacio Ardiles and Nilo Dizon Jr./Dodo Cayanga with 70s to Group II. Bobby Gerwacio/Ben Fernandez with 72s to Group C and Jimmy Go/Antonio Lito Sing with 74 to Group I.

Marcelo youngest Karter of the Year

JUAN STRAND MARCELO OF SAN Miguel Corp. Mercedes Racing carved his niche in Philippine Motorsports history with an unrelenting feat in the 2007 Shell Eco-Karting Super Series that ended recently at the Carmona Circuit (Philippines).

Marcelo emerged the youngest karter to capture the prestigious Karter of the Year plum at age 16 in 16 years of the country's most competitive karting.

Going up to the Mercedes championship tandem, Stefano wound up his title campaign in the premiere formula 125 Open Seniors class with 4005.5 points—following the footsteps of his car racing champ grandfather Adolfo Marcelo, his proud champion dad, Atty. John Marcelo and his late uncle, Stefanopolis champ Jory Marcelo.

"It's a dream come true," said Stefano. "I'm very lucky to have survived all the big challenges and controversies, and achieve this milestone with God's blessings and the big support of San Miguel Corp. and the whole Mercedes Racing Team."

"The racing blood line has been passed," said John. "We're proud Stefano has carried on the family's championship tradition and we hope to see him reach greater heights in the years to come."

Stefano bagged the overall crown of the Southern Philippines SDK Series Championship, known as the Cebu SDK Open at the East Zone in Mabolo, Cebu City.

He also titled the three legs of the Asian Karting Open Championship in Carmona, Indonesia and in Bangkok early this month.

STEHMEIER

La Salle-Ateneo golf duel slated

THE HIGHLY AWAITED DE LA SALLE-Ateneo Match Play 2007, a gathering of 36 of the best players from both schools in a tripdee Cup style format event, will be held Dec. 19-21 at the Tagaytay Highlands.

Animo dreamers' La Salle is the inaugural staging of the event in 2004 at the Sherwood Hills Golf Club in Cavite but the Blue Eagles were the ones to notch a memorable victory at Canlubang Golf Club in 2005.

La Salle repeated over Ateneo when the event returned to Sherwood last year.

"While the two schools have always been known as the main protagonists for so long in the EAAP, this time we would like to see this match be a vehicle for unity and serve as an example for other organizations to emulate," said Jay Bautista, president of De La Salle Alumni Association.

Sportswatch

Ilonda tops Singapore Jrs

CHRISTIAN KEITH ROSE ILONDA HOT START TO turnaround Thai Yuppoom Asiaropoles, carding a four-over par 76 to claim the first Singapore Junior Open Golf Championship by three strokes at the Tanah Merah Country Club's Garden Course in Singapore last Thursday.

Ilonda, a 19-Japanese member of the ICTSI golf squad, regained her footing after bringing 80 in the second round. To win the 18-18 age category with a 54-hole aggregate of 225.

FBL semifinals today

THE METRO MANILA FUTURES BASKETBALL League (FBL) starts its semifinal games today at the Jaycee Town competition courts of Xavier School in San Juan.

Defending mini-division champion Mercer de Manila—Kalaga Road with under-team Ateneo de Manila—2 for a seat in the finals following the first race game featuring Sta. Clara International Montessori, Cor Jesu, Ateneo de Manila, Provincial Heights division champion San Beda-Alabang, tangles with Antipolo Lady of Lourdes School.

Suba steals show

JET RACING RAPTOR MINDA JOHN SUBA grabbed the limelight with his photo-finish victory over Jaybee Sebastian Jose Rendon topped the Junior Karter of the Year award recently at the end of the 2007 Shell Eco-Karting Super Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite.

With just 10 meters from the finish line, Suba made the daring a move from behind Rendon and stormed the finish line to end when he grabbed the checkered flag.

Read a big comeback for Suba who hit the ground hard with his karter on top and two consecutives for 12 minutes in the second heat.

TRS stages Focus Cup

THE 2007 FOCUS CUP ELIMINATIONS, design started yesterday at the Subic International Raceway.

Some of the country's finest drivers will test their skills in nine types of racing discipline in conjunction with Philippine Festival of Speed.

Drivers will compete in a Sprint Competition and 1-hour hour endurance competition in the two-day event being staged by Trans Racing.

To all BEC members and alumni of Center for Research and Communication and of the University of Asia and the Pacific:

Don't miss the BEC's 40th homecoming and the Christmas Year-end Briefing on the 28th and 29th of November 2007, from 1:00 until 5:00 in the afternoon, at the Li Seng Giap Auditorium, University of Asia and the Pacific.

Business outlooks for the years 2008 until 2010 will be presented by Mr. Paul Joseph Garcia, Mr. Ronilo Balbieran, Dr. Victor Abola, and by Dr. Ramon Quesada.

For further inquiries, please call the Business Economics Club (BEC) at 631-1905; 637-0922 loc. 251, 255, or 304. Look for Ms. Kay Flores.

It's Sampras over Federer

MACAU—PETE SAMPRAS FIRED OFF HIS trademark powerful serve in a shock upset of world number one Roger Federer in Macau on Saturday to post his first win in three exhibition matches.

The former US world champion came back strongly after defeats in Seoul and Kuala Lumpur, forcing the first break of the match in the ninth game of the second set and serving out for victory in sets 7-6 (10-8), 6-4 in 93 minutes.

He won the first set on a tie-break after a right-after-that had gone with seven easy light rally-quick point.

Sampras, 36, said the level of play in the 6-foot match was high.

"It was very fast out there, very quick-court. It was challenging out my service games. I was getting a little by today and it would have gone either way in the first set." The 20-year old Federer praised his opponents serve, saying he still could compete in the top five level in the world.

"He delivered a great level of play Unfortunately I didn't win today but the surface was really quick and Pete was playing really well and hardly making any mistakes," he said.

Sampras, who won a record 14 Grand Slams, started the match strongly with his heavy serve, hitting two aces in the first game and never losing up.

Federer, currently on 12 Grand Slams, had two set points in the first set tie-break, but Sampras escaped and made his second set point count.

Both players hit 14 aces during the match. Sampras made 55 unforced errors to Federer's 53, while Sampras won 149 points in the course to Federer's 144.

They met clash in the packed arena at Macau's Venetian resort was their third match to just five days, following the meetings in Seoul and Malaysia.

Federer won the first match in Seoul on Tuesday 6-4, 6-3 in 61 minutes.

The Swiss second clash, in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, was a closer affair over 99 minutes, with Federer emerging victorious after saving four aces on six breaks. AFP

110 K Big Event today

SAN JUAN COUNTRY CLUB'S GOLF COURSE almost 1000 pursuit the 110 K Big Event K-day charity tournament at 7 point today.

The 100-right program will be hosted by Mar Roxas of Taclan and assisted by LCC group.

Participants include sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Sales Pioneer group Pol Eduardo, Sonny Logan, Ricky Reyes, Arman Santos, Lito Orillaza, Gerry Ramos, Rodolfo Pineda, Tony Tan, Tony Mauhay, Elmo Cantos, Lorenzo Dee Tony, Nonoy Abello, Eric dela Rosa, Rey de Rosa and Pito Salcedo. "We or two participants more than all top stage. The "no flight" rule is not allowed," said pit manager Ronnie Ong.

Derby at Elorde's

THE MUCH-AWAITED ANNIVERSARY A COCK derby at the Elorde Cockpit Stadium in Bacoor Road, Parañaque, is scheduled Tuesday starting at 2 p.m.

Promoted by businessman/sportsman Johnny Elorde, the derby is a celebration of the sabong's 14th year and offers a guaranteed prize of P500,000. Fist money is pegged at P8,000 with the handler and the gaffer of the winning entry receiving P20,000 and P10,000, respectively.

For inquiries, call 8354403, 8210395 and 8354822 or 0919-3123333 and 0919-4660333.

Tigresses seek finals slot anew

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS can end Ateneo's championship aspiration with a win today in the final semifinal playdate of the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

But it is easier said than done as the Lady Eagles have proven their mastery over the perennial UAAP heavyweights with a win over the Tigresses last Oct. 27. Ateneo coach Roland Dilay is himself confident his wards can duplicate that victory when they clash anew at 3 p.m.

"We played good against UST the last time," said Dilay, who watched the Tigresses yield One Hen Reds slot to the San Sebastian College Lady Stags last Friday. "We are more familiar with them minus Mars Alba. Second so I think we'll have an easier time against them."

An Ateneo win would give it a playoff bonus against UST for winning three of its four semifinal matches, an incentive designed to spur losers outdated squads a chance to make the best-of-three championship series.

But if UST manages to avenge its 20-22, 23-25, 25-23, 19-25, 8-15 elimination round defeat, the defending UAAP champion secures its second consecutive finals appearance.

It will also be a rematch of the first conference finals won by UST via a sweep.

San Sebastian forged into the finals first after sweeping UST, 25-19, 25-20, 25-17, 25-23, two days ago. Had UST won that match and even if San Sebastian beat La Salle in today's 5 p.m. first game for 9-2 records, the Tigresses would still have to lose to the Lady Eagles because of a superior quotient.

As it is, San Sebastian came has the higher quotient because of that victory and can take it easy against dropout-champion La Salle.

"Ron import Kristine Urbanese made 21 points when Ateneo beat UST. Dilay said his guest player studied their opponents' games diligently. "She uses her experience and to us all personal player."

Ateneo 6.

Riner, Ekshibarova ferge Smart-ITF tennis championship showdown

NICOLE RINER OF SWITZERLAND IS SEEK OFF THE EFFECTS OF A minor illness and ousted eighth seed Chung Ka-yhon of Taiwan, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, yesterday in the semifinals of the Smart PLDT ITF Women's Circuit Week 2 at the Manila Polo Club clay courts in Makati City.

The 17-year-old Riner goes for the title today against second seed Vlada Ekshibarova of Uzbekistan, who defeated still seventh seed Ling Zhang of Hong Kong, 6-4, 6-4, in the other semifinal pairing.

The 19-year-old Ekshibarova, who scored top level Czechia Milan Nowotna, packing in the quarterfinals, again summoned her strong serves and power hit backhands to smash the finals on just her initial stint here.

Riner, bothered by a throat infection, displayed a strong baseline game on the third set to nullify 10 double faults.

"It was harder playing with her this time because I knew just exactly [it] [broke]," said Riner. "But I just hungry there and tried my best to play again in the finals."

Mark Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2007

Mayorga spoils Vargas retirement party

LOS ANGELES—Agapito Mayorga knocked down his former Olympic mate Fernando Vargas in the first and 1:19 rounds to capture a majority decision here Friday in a duel of former world champions, sending Vargas to retirement in defeat. AP

Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra

Jones: From grace to disgrace

MONACO—MARION JONES WAS TOTALLY disqualified on Friday from all competitions since Sept. 1, 2006, including the Sydney Olympics where she won five medals, after admitting last month to taking banned drugs.

The International Association of Athletics Federations' (IAAF) governing council ruled that Jones' results be annulled after she confessed to taking the designer steroid tetrahydrogestrinone before the 2000 Games.

Jones won in the 100, 200 and 4x400-meter relay and bronze in the long jump and 4x100 relay in Sydney. The Council would also seek the disqualification of the US women's 4x100 and 4x400 meter relay teams. Reuters

Celts trip Lakers; Wizards triumph

BOSTON—THE BOSTON CELTICS improved their NBA-leading record to 10-1 and remained unbeaten at home this season with a resounding 107-94 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday.

Kevin Garnett led the resurgent Celtics with 21 points and 11 rebounds and Kendrick Perkins also scored 21 points and had nine rebounds for Boston, which won just 24 games last season.

There was an electric atmosphere in the stands reminiscent of the 1980s, when the Celtics and Lakers were the dominant teams in the NBA. From 1980-88, the Lakers won five titles and the Celtics three, meeting in the finals three times in four years.

Pierce had 20 points, nine assists and six rebounds for the Celtics, while Ray Allen scored 15 points.

Kobe Bryant was booed most of the night and was taunted by chants of "Beat LA!" but still led the Lakers with 29 points.

The Golden State Warriors beat the Washington Wizards 125-115 in a game that featured two double-triple-doubles.

Baron Davis had 21 points, 15 assists and 11 rebounds for Golden State, while Caron Butler had 28 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for Washington.

The Detroit Pistons improved to a perfect 4-0 at home with an 89-79 win over the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Miami Heat won for the first time at home this season, downing the Houston Rockets 90-91. Dwyane Wade had 31 points and Shaquille O'Neal added seven highs of 16 points and 14 rebounds for Miami.

The Dallas Mavericks lost for just the second time in 12 games, yielding to the Indiana Pacers, 111-107.

Jeff Foster had 26 points as the San Antonio Spurs improved to 11-2 overall with a 101-88 win over the Memphis Grizzlies. Reuters

THE ROCKETS' Tim Thomas defends against the Heat's Shaquille O'Neal (left). Reuters

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Tagaytay-Spring five blasts Indonesians

TAGAYTAY CITY—TAGAYTAY Spring Cooking Oil wrapped the Indonesia Stadium drills, 84-66, Friday night at the start of the 2007 Tagaytay NBC International Invitational Cup at the Tolentino Sports and Arts Center here.

Nino Marquez paced the team with 20 points while Aryan Stanard led the rookies with 11 markers.

The Indonesians led at 18-4 before Marquez, Noel Ejendodan and Ariel de Castro ignited the offense of the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tan" Padilla and Tagaytay Mayor Sonny Belmonte.

Later, Manny Pangania's IBP Juniors Batman beat the NBC Institute of Malaysia, 84-67.

The scores:

Tagaytay Spring (84)—Marquez 20, Ejendodan 15, Aguirre 10, De Castro 8, Cortez 7, Mendoza 6, Suarez 5, Dimaporo 4, L. Magbanua 4, Mapalo 4, Stanard 11, Caguioa 2, Ramos 2.

Indonesia (66)—Suarez 16, Hendry 15, Sukmawan, Aprialyn Wonderful, Hamdan 7, Sandjaya 5, Rizaldi 3, Prabhawa 2.

Quarters: 20-4; 32-30; 60-45; 84-66

Stanard (11)—Ramos 10, Aguirre 9, Mendoza 8, Cortez 7, Suarez 6, Dimaporo 4, Cabahug 4, Hamdan 4, Ham 3, Sabino 2, Caguioa 2, Mapalo 2, De Castro 1.

Mampaz (17)—Yam 14, Lim 10, David, Jamero, Tan Ling Ai 5, Ari 5, Ari.

Quarters: 17-10; 31-30; 53-52; 84-67

Sharks edge Unibikers for 5th straight victory

JAKE ISORENA had tied a two-run double in the 13th inning as Manila set aboard the absence of key players to extend its winning run with a 5-3 victory over Danaguarte yesterday in baseball Philippines' series 2 at the Rizal baseball field.

Isorena doubled off relief pitcher Jay Antonio to score Jordan Yuan and Jake Ilao and lift the Sharks to their fifth straight win after dropping their first two games.

Romero Jacinto, who took over from Joseph Antonio in the seventh inning and gave up the run that gave Danaguarte a 3-2 lead in the lower eight, then held the Unibikers scoreless in their final turn at the plate.

Top hurler Charlie Labrador, who helped Jerry the Shark[illegible] and three others were recently pulled out of the team to join the Nationals in their quest to retain the gold medal in the 24th South east Asian Games next month in Thailand. Mon Ambrosio Reyes

PHOTO OP. Miz Marathon national race organizer Rudi Biscocho with Manila Philippines Chief Finance Officer Peter Hernandez before the start of the Miz Mile race, ruled by Cresencio de Sagun and Florentina Carreon, Sunday at the Luneta Park. Hernandez finished the race in 49:17.

Yakult 10-miler registration opens

REGISTRATION FOR THE 12TH EDITION OF THE ANNUAL YAKULT 10-MILER slated for Dec. 9 at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center begins today at the Robinsons Galleria ground in Pasay City and will run until Nov. 30 at the following venues: Mall of Asia, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Manila, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Ermita, Robinsons Metropolitan Mall, Robinsons Place Bacolod, Robinsons Cebu, Robinsons Cagayan de Oro, Robinsons Iligan, Robinsons Davao, Robinsons Place Antipolo, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, Robinsons Lipa, Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Las Piñas, Robinsons Pioneer

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'Successful ventures can also put people first'

Salay Paper founder works hard to push for fair trade

LORETA and Reynaldo Ballaros at their paper shop

SALAY handmade paper products

By Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez
Inquirer Mindanao

MAMAS ORIENTAL—Nurse-turned-entrepreneur Loreta Ballaros of the famed Salay Handmade Paper, Inc. was exuberant upon hearing the talk of former Socio-Economic Secretary Cielito Habito at the Asian Economic Forum for Solidarity Economy held in Manila last October.

Habito talked extensively about the "solidarity economy" optimistically predicting that "a more caring economy is indeed possible ... the ideal of an economy that re-emphasizes that Filipino concept of *bayanihan*."

She praised the talk to be very inspiring for an entrepreneur who have been struggling to have business and social responsibility meet halfway to a participant in the regional gathering. Loreta is not a stranger to solidarity economy as she has been practicing and nurturing the values of fair trade for decades.

Fair trade is the core principle of solidarity economy. Fair trade means producing high quality products while taking care of poor employees and the environment, and selling these items at fair prices. The International Fair Trades association (IFTA) states that "more than just trading, it proves that greater justice in world trade is possible. It highlights the need for change in the rules and practices of conventional trade and shows how a successful business can also put people first."

There is a growing number of buyers who want to only buy from companies that practice fair trade. This is particularly true for the European market.

Salay Handmade Paper Industry Inc. (SHMPI) has been showcased all over the world as a major SME (small and medium enterprise) player in the Philippines with a great success story about fair trade.

It is now known as the producer of top quality handmade paper products exported to Europe and other parts of the globe. Dressed on the hostel, 10 SHPI cus stuffy

BACKSPACE, B2

Oil firm fuels hope with village school

"I WAS A NON-READER. However, I come to learn this so-called reading intervention program. As a result I learn how to read and gradually, to comprehend," Grade 4 pupil Rendia Gempong narrated.

Gempong went on to thank various donors—the Canada Assistant Foundation Inc. (CAFI), Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and the USAID—"in behalf of my classmates."

"We are deeply indebted. If not for them none of these would be possible and also to Petron who gave us three classrooms," Gempong added. "This will surely arouse the interest of the pupils and motivate us to study further."

It was a blissful Monday (Nov. 19) for Rudji Mesa Elementary School in Barangay Sapatan and the whole community.

The day was the inauguration of the school building and tree-planting activity along the perimeter of the school grounds.

With the United States Assistance for International Development (USAID)-Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS), local government units and the private sector, the school heralds a "kind of hope" for barangay.

"Today we have planted the trees for success," Gov. Migz Dominguez said.

The governor assured "all our partners that we in the community will ensure that the seeds planted today will bear fruits of opportunities that will assure the children of this community which will eventually become the key out of poverty."

For his part, Nicasio Alcantara, Petron Corp. chair and chief executive officer, said: "We hope that our contribution will inspire the community to work together in support of education."

Alcantara reaffirmed the company's commitment to go beyond school buildings and scholarship programs by helping to enhance the capability of Mindanao educators to teach English, Math and Science.

This commitment for Mindanao was echoed by Claudia Washington, USAID deputy mission director.

"I'd like to reiterate our commitment. Our commitment of peace in the Mindanao region, our commitment to prosperity, and our commitment in partnership," Washington said.

She pointed out the USAID administration in Washington had recently led to "triple our partnerships with the private sectors and we're looking forward to work with all other institutions including the academe."

USAID's infrastructure programs, through with Bridges to Mindanao (GEM), will continue for the next five years while its educational assistance through Equalls will go on for the next four years, according to Washington.

Education Affairs, principal of Rudji Mesa Elementary School, said: "I cannot express what is my feeling today since this is just a matter of a dream that has come true."

Petron, which has built 29 schools in Mindanao, also donated a three-classroom building in Ghu's Pangpan Elementary School in 2003 as part of its adopt-a-school program.

(Encouragement Information Office 09/05)

THE COASTAL village of Sabangan in San Fabian, Pangasinan, is a beehive of activity courtesy of the dried fish "tuyo" industry.

What's fishy and salty and dominates Filipinos' breakfast tables?

Tuyo spurs economic activity in coastal village

By Yolanda Sotelo Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon
Photos by Ray Zambrano

SAN FABIAN, PANGASINAN—Combinations like tapsilog (tapa, sinangag, itlog) and tosilog (tocino, sinangag, itlog) are the typical breakfast fare in restaurants and fast-food chains.

But "tuyo" (dried salted herring), the so-called poor man's fish, continues to dominate the breakfast tables of many Filipino families.

The coastal village of Lucap, too, has embraced the taste and distinctive smell of tuyo, with almost all villagers involved in the dried fish industry either as entrepreneurs or workers.

The industry started in the village about 20 years ago, says Aniel de Guzman, 35, one of those engaged in the business. He and his wife, Marisa, started 11 years ago and have provided jobs for their village mates.

On a typical day in Sabangan, people of all ages are busy drying their share in ensuring that the industry thrives.

Groups wash the fish while others take care of spreading them on bamboo slats for sun drying. Another group sorts the dried fish and packages them.

"There are no relatives (who volunteer) here," Dr. Guzman says. His 14 workers are paid by the number of tubs of fish (about 30 kilograms) that they dry and pack.

But while Sabangan fuses the Lingayen Gulf, the heritage dried here do not come from the gulf.

Dr. Guzman says the volume of herring harvested from the gulf was not enough to keep the industry going.

Their supplies come from the Navotas fish port in Metro Manila. Every two days, trucks from the village go to Navotas where they buy herring.

"We buy the fresh fish and put salt on them. The fish are soaked in salt for at least 12 hours. Then we wash them several times here to remove the extra salt before we dry them under the sun," Dr. Guzman says.

He said they do not use other preservatives in their product except salt.

There was hardly any fly hovering over the fish left to be sun dry.

It was already noon: the intense rains of the village monsoon had not yet begun. But Dr. Guzman says he was not worried as long as it did not rain.

"If today because the fish can be sun dried, too," he says.

What makes tuyo coming from this village distinctive is that it is lighter in color and less salty.

Depending on the price of fresh herring at the Navotas market, tuyo here are sold from P50 to P80 a kilogram.

Dr. Guzman says tuyo are classified into silahis (with scales or "premium"), BM (or big-medium) and the 3S (or sexy-small) or those without heads or tails or have holes on their bodies.

Dr. Guzman markets his product in Baguio City, Mt. Province, and the different towns and cities of Pangasinan.

He says consumers, for to also able to buy other kinds of fish for drying in Malabon, like the espada (ruslan fish), pomanis, salagayan (yellow-striped scrombs) and iuls.

But he says the herring remains as their best seller.

ALMOST all villagers are involved in the dried fish industry either as entrepreneurs or workers.

Pantagapo B3

'Successful ventures can also put people first'

past as one of the leading handicrafts paper influencers in the globe, with big store chains Marks and Spencers and other European retail giants. In fact, in 2006, almost 30 percent of SHAPE's market is in Europe, 20 percent in North America, 6 percent in Japan and 4 percent in other countries.

Lorena attributes the company's success in the export business to its adherence to the principles of fair trade. Most of its orders are thru-and-thru members of "the which has been in the global forefront of promoting and helping industries, even small ones like SHAPE, in the field of fair trade.

For example, a Canada-based group selling itself "Ten Thousand Villages," which runs and sells handicrafted products from around the globe, has been a long-time and loyal patron of SHAPE products.

Lorena admits that without the support of IDs and its member companies, SHAPE would have had difficulty in riding over their first years as a back-yard enterprise.

THE COMPANY gives livelihood to poor families in Sulop.

Importing fair paper story has now become a vocation for Lorena, who usually capitalizes before big international gatherings such as the Asian Economic Forum to convince other entrepreneurs to go into fair trade.

And what a persuasive story she has.

Some Lorena and husband Dr. Reynaldo Balboza were an ordinary middle class couple living in the quiet, farflung town of Sulop, Misamis Oriental.

In 1987, as clashes between the rebels and military troops displaced many of Sulop's upland folks, the Balboza couple was quick to help out and tried to find ways to give the victims long term survival opportunity.

Situating attended a livelihood seminar, Reynaldo decided to adopt what he learned about making handmade paper using cogon grass (scientific name: Imperata cylindrica var.major) that thrive in their town.

The couple made this a livelihood project under the People's Economic Council-Sulop, a people's organization that they head.

An old chicken barn in the back of the Balboza residence became the first production area of 18 handmade paper workers who stayed on with the PEC-Sulop despite the group's meager capital of P6,000.

Finished products were peddled by Lorena herself in Cagayan de Oro City, a two-hour drive from Sulop.

"I was oddly then as Reynaldo agreed to drive me in his old Sallasan jeep and we went around the city to peddle the paper products and later on to gift shops, which ordered by our shipment. One day we realized we had no money anymore even for my children's food and school needs because my husband could not work regularly. I decided to go on my own and it was really tiring, but I persevered," recounts Lorena of their humble beginnings.

Perseverance paid off and eventually, after a year of working to improve their products and joining trade fairs, the couple, together with the remaining paper-makers, rejoiced in their first earnings.

In 1998, Lorena decided to separate from PEC-Sulop and wanted to establish a cooperative. Her lack of money the Balboza couple settled to register SHAPE as a corporation. But promised to run the company like a cooperative, where profit-sharing and labor equity are practiced.

"We were not actually putting up a business for profit, all we wanted was to give regular employment to the people of Sulop and help them break away from poverty," says Lorena in describing SHAPE as a little candle in the dark.

But for many Sulop folks, the small handmade paper shop has given them hope of prosperity and even completion.

It was in 1998 when this small handicraft enterprise became the first fair trader in Mindanao.

"People from the Global Technology Search (which my son met in a seminar) pointed out that what we were doing was actually fair trade. We did not know then what it was. I told them we were only doing our Christian duties of helping others," narrates Lorena.

Soon, international groups invited Lorena abroad to talk on doing business the fair trade way.

Fair trade means producing high quality products while taking care of your employees and the environment, and selling these items at fair prices

HEART-SHAPED paper box

Prior to the principles of fair trade, the conditions of both the town and people of Sulop improved as SHAPE grew. Aside from directly employing 250 members, it now also provides livelihood to over 50 families in Sulop.

SHAPE has become the biggest livelihood provider to town, next to the local government. Its benchmen and cooperative manner that the people are benefiting from the progress that SHAPE has achieved through the years.

"After 17 years, we've finally fulfilled what we originally wanted to put up—a foundation and a cooperative which takes care of our social responsibility to the people of Sulop," says Lorena.

The SHAPE Foundation now provides scholarship to poor but deserving Sulop students and the SHAPE Multipurpose Cooperative operates a small cafeteria and now several livelihood projects independently.

Lorena modestly admits that they can be a good inspiration to other NGOs.

"Sadly, there are only 35-40 so in the country that practice fair trade," says Lorena.

In her speeches and presentations, she would exhort non-operators to try engaging in fair trade.

"As far as I'm concerned, the only way for SMEs to survive today is to go into fair trade," she told us after Sulop's statement that propelling economic progress begins with social equity.

"Business with justice, with compassion, that is the fair trade way. We need to trust the investment now. Small as we are, we will slowly but surely achieve sustainable development if the people around us grow as we grow," Lorena Lorena with a tone of reminder.

PAPER lantern

Relational refueling

LEADERSHIP REQUIRES ENERGY

It doesn't necessarily call for the kind of energy needed to run a marathon or take care of 10 rambunctious kids for an hour, but me, and perhaps for you, leading requires a great deal of mental and emotional vigor.

Think about it. If you're a leader, you have to initiate, which means you often have to be the first one to rise and say, "Let's go." You frequently have to say, "Let's try," to people who don't want to go, which means you have to persuade them that they need to follow you.

You have to make tough calls that drive, by affect the lives of other people. You have to solve complex problems. You have to serve as a mediator, negotiator, counselor, encourager and teacher to the people on your team. And so on.

The work of leading is intellectually stimulating and personally fulfilling—if it weren't, who would want to do it? But it can also be incredibly draining, which is why we all need regular refueling.

Leaders re-energize in various ways. Some read. Some cook. Some fish. Some play tennis—or racquetball, or basketball or golf. Those activities all have their place. But in my life, I also get a great deal of energy from certain personal relationships.

Not all relationships fall into this category, mind you. Some people can literally suck the life right out of you if you're not careful. Sometimes you can avoid such relationships, but many times you can't. That makes energizing relationships even more critical.

Do you have people in your life who energize you when the work of leading has sapped your strength and sapped your spirit? If you've never thought of your relationships in that way, perhaps you should start.

Below are listed the persons I view as the right types of relationships that energize me.

1. My family.

Now I realize that maintaining healthy connections with close relatives also requires a great deal of energy. You cannot expect to be a good spouse or parent if you're not willing to devote a significant amount of time and effort to the relationship. But a strong relationship with a spouse, for example, can also be a tremendous source of energy for a leader.

My wife, Margaret, gives me so much in this regard. I can get complimentary from a dozen people after a speaking engagement, but if she says, "Great job," it's worth more than all the other comments combined.

2. Creative people.

I love being around creative people because it stimulates my thinking and recharges my own creative batteries. I also just enjoy observing how their minds work.

3. Successful people.

When I meet such individuals, I often ask them to tell me how they made it to the top. Not surprisingly, their stories are usually punctuated by examples of hardship and adversity. The inspirational value I hear how people overcome opposition, persevere through challenges and maneuver around obstacles to accomplish their goals.

4. My team.

My favorite day of the month is what we call "Friendship Day." On this day I sit down with the people who run my three companies and we review what's happening in our organizations. I'm always invigorated when I leave those meetings because my team members—those men and women who are really out there doing the job—are making me so much better that I could never hope to be on my own.

5. Good thinkers.

By this, I don't necessarily mean smart people. I'm not real smart, but I love to think. And I love to spend time with people who enjoy the intellectual give and take of a good conversation. Thinking people don't talk about other people. They talk about principles, concepts and ideas. That energizes me.

6. Interesting people.

Let's face it. Some people are interesting, and others are not. A person doesn't have to be richest person but to be interesting. A keen mind, an interest in others and a love of learning all determine whether a person is interesting or not far more than his title or the size of her investment portfolio.

7. Encouragers.

When you see those people coming, you almost automatically know they're going to lift you up. They either can't help it—it's part of their genetic code. Every leader needs a relationship with someone like this.

8. "Fun" people.

These folks love life, and their enthusiasm is contagious.

I want to do a considerable amount of counseling, and if there's one thing I learned from those interactions, it's that unrelationships very often define who we are and what we can become. So if you want to become a more effective leader, foster relationships with people who energize you and inspire you. Be around people who sometimes make you laugh, encourage you and inspire you. Your energy level depends upon it.

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or team-work workshops, please e-mail us at inquiry@maxwellcenter.com or call 813.2069.2732 (toll-free).

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

If you're a leader, you have to initiate, which means you often have to be the first one to rise and say, "Let's go"

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lifestyles

Korea's rise atop RP's travel chart

BOOMS RISE AS THE PHILIPPINES' top source of foreign tourists didn't just happen.

The Korean travel agent Ki Tae Kim, it was a long and arduous trek that began in 1989.

"At the time, very few Koreans knew about the Philippines," Kim recalls. "I would conduct a slide presentation to a group of 10 ladies saying the day and evening group of 10 men in the evening after office hours. I would show them Boracay, Cebu, Bohol, El Nido, Club Paradise and even Dakak in Mindanao."

Humbly, Kim narrated how he wrote from office to office with his slide projector just to show the beautiful images of the Philippines to prospective clients.

"Even as early as 1989, I already felt that the Philippines was an ideal place for Koreans to visit or take their families for a vacation, be I could for long it still my clients hated the time for my presentation," Kim adds.

Eighteen years later, Kim, this time as president of Philippine Airlines Korea, enjoys the support of the Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT) and members of the country's tourism industry.

It began in 2000 when he cooperated with the DOT the first sales mission of Filipino marketing executives in Seoul. The mission was successful so it became a yearly event since then.

Now on its sixth year, the just-concluded 2007 sales mission had 41 delegates from the private sector and three from the DOT—Region III director Dionisia Ilao, project manager Cornelisa Bautista and Team Korea head Dori Santamaria. The private sector delegates represented various tourism establishments in Manila, Cebu, Bohol, Boracay, Palawan and Davao, among others.

Then, Kim no longer has to do it all alone. More importantly, he is now reaping the benefits of his spearheading efforts, with Korean arrivals reaching 573,133 to top the Philippines' list of foreign tourists last year.

The influx of Korean tourists continues, generating demand that necessitates a corresponding increase in PAL flights between the two countries.

"Starting December, PAL will increase its flights to Cebu from three to four a day. And starting January, direct flights from Jeju to Manila will commence," Kim reveals.

The flight increase is quite an urgent necessity. The first three quarters of the current year saw Korean arrivals growing a whopping 30.3 percent growth from 400,000 to 472,711 on the way to the DOT Team Korea's full-year target of 600,000.

"Korean arrivals now account for a huge 20.9 percent of the total Philippines inbound tourists, followed by USA with 19.1 percent and Japan 13.6 percent," says Tourism Attaché Marissa Banes-Hoven in her speech at the opening of the sales mission in Seoul.

At the sidelines of the sales activities during the mission, Hoven hastened to assure the marketing efforts that brought Korean arrivals to its phenomenal scale.

"The turning point came in 2004 when Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano took over the helm of the DOT and organized a new country marketing team, made shifts to core markets specific strategies and objectives. Like the other teams, Team Korea had to identify its priority market segments and model them with the appropriate products, which made us come out with our eight-pillar destinations.

"In the case of Korea, we are now capitalizing on our pretty strong grip of our priority market segments—holiday seekers, honeymooners, students and special interest groups—to expand our coverage to luck souls of the mass tier spectrum.

"We have involved a menu of complementing marketing activities that are exhilarated to generate demand and warrant a corresponding increase in airline seats and tourism investments to beef up the supply side. The DOT-PAL sales mission, university campus road shows and various other marketing events are examples of such activities that influence our market awareness and visibility to supports our tourism brand, and develop new markets," adds Hoven.

"It [marketing] isn't just about promoting a brand as a matter of routine. You've got to be very sensitive to the market, ever ready for emerging consumer preferences, industry practice and many other subtle nuances of the trade. One must be fast, innovative and should know the market inside. Then, your work program must be enhanced year after year if you want to be ahead of the competition," Hoven points out.

All these activities, however, require a lot of hard work and vision, which Kim knows only too well.

Sunday BIZ

SHOPPING malls and "shoppes" prepare their wares for the Christmas season as early as November

'Tis the best Christmas in 20 years

Retailers expect robust sales with dollars from OFWs

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

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AIG PhilAm

KEEPING OIL PRICES, POLITICAL BICKERING and the weakening dollar are not getting in the way of the Christmas buying season this year.

In fact, some retail companies have predicted that this year will be the best Christmas season in 20 years, because of the influx of remittances from overseas Filipino workers and a generally buoyant economy.

Shamir Ameja, marketing and operations head of Pedrini Supermall, tells the Inquirer that the mall is anticipating an increase in both sales and traffic.

"The season always brings excitement not just for the public, but the mall as well. Based on previous years, the mall has witnessed a steady increase (in sales and traffic) during this season," Ameja says.

Wilson Tam Jr., business development manager of Waltermart, adds that Filipinos seem to be buying earlier than usual this year, probably to avoid the Christmas rush.

"More OFWs are sending their money as early as November in order to still enjoy good conversion rate for their dollars," adds Anne de Guzman, Waltermart assistant vice president for operations.

"Come December, many holidaymakers are expected to come over and that will again be a bonus to the industry. With more money here and yet more money to come toward Christmas, the retail industry is expected to enjoy its best Christmas ever in 20 years," De Guzman adds.

This optimistic view shared by others in the retail industry only means that the shopping scene will be busier than ever, and not just in malls but in bargain centers as well.

FILIPINOS buy decorations earlier than usual this year

BARGAIN centers are ready busy this year

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Citra Cheio-Bunal-Formoso

LITTLE GYM GUESTS. Winners Ronald Soares and daughter Kiara and Lizza Tolentino with "Enchanted" stars Amy Adams and Dempsey

"American Idol" 2005 champion Carrie Underwood

PHOTOS OF photos of Patrick Dempsey "McDreamy" with Sea Princess.

Some enchanted evening!

Since I was in my Sea Princess fantasy costume, dreamy Patrick Dempsey joked that I must have had some suitcase to fly all the way from the Philippines to Hollywood

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY, bombastic stars and backstage fun! Welcome to Hollywood!

Never in my wildest dream had I thought I would ever be invited to a premiere of a Disney movie and mingle with the film's superstars at the after party. But it did happen and last week I flew off to Tinseltown to watch "Enchanted" at the El Capitan Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard.

It is wonderful to top with Disney, The Little Gym, a premier child development facility, held a raffle among its kids for an all-expense-paid trip to Hollywood for the new Disney film.

My 2-year-old Aliana is actively enjoying one of the excellent programs of The Little Gym (www.thelittlegym.com.ph). Their high standards of music, programs and motor-skills development, combined with competent teacher services, truly nurture all the life skill areas of growing children.

Their philosophy is to treat children with dignity and respect through physical, mental, social, emotional and cognitive development.

That may seem a whole lot of expense for a 2-year-old but the environment is reasonably financed with encouragement as the kids learn while having fun.

All this goes in the breach at Bonifacio Technology Center at The Fort (tel. 815-1755). There are two other branches at El Pueblo Real de Manila in Pasig and SM® Aura premier Center in Alabang.

The raffle was won by student Enzo Soares, together with his family and teacher Paolo Marcos. In near fairytale fashion, though, The Little Gym owner Helen Limcuando allowed me a slot to tag along with the group. Well, who can say no to an offer like that!

The best way to travel to the US West Coast is still via Philippine Airlines. The overnight flight leaves at night, allowing one to sleep through the flight and wake up ready for shopping at Target.

In my case, I flew to San Francisco to spend a couple of days with my eldest son, Bryan, who just found a job with an Internet company there.

Upon arrival, we checked out O'Neill's Irish Pub on Chirardelli Square in the city. The next pub is right next to the Giant's baseball stadium and is fast becoming the team's hangout.

Bryan and I flew to Los Angeles via Virgin Americas, a new airline with state-of-the-art interiors and leather seats. Each seat even has individual, web-ready monitors, perfect for e-mailing and surfing in the sky. And that's in economy class! Hmmm. Time for IMAX here and I'm already thinking of their upgrades!

At LAX airport, we were met by a superstretch limo. It was just the thing to make one feel like a star, as the limo cruised past

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King Louie

Compiled by Fran Santiago

KING, RON, MAESTRO, THE MASTER.

Thus is the dazzling reputation Sunday Lifestyle Exclusives guest editor Louie Yumol has roamed with merely three decades in the nightlife scene so hard and embossed on it.

He has been through phenomenal success to tragic mishaps. From a perennial night-owl (club-hopping to become known as well-to-be in the know), he has ambivalently dove into the lifestyle of family-and-soul restauration.

Perhaps what has remained constant is his ability to be the gracious host, to treat guests like they were members of his household. After all, how does one learn to balance one's schedule if one refuses to rest, drink and be merry with them?

Here are brief accounts of what it is like to party with "King Louie."

"Louie is the best. He makes you feel like you're the center, not (just) a guest in his parties.

"He makes you feel really special. During my wedding in Baguio, nauwi siyang Cebu just on the way and he took the bus for me. We were all laughing at him when he arrived. Who would ever imagine Louie would take the bus to Baguio?

"Oh, the things he can do for you. Lagi nya akong cause with their free cars and while he came to each bus, (Uh ha, ang pacing. My wedding was a four-day event...he could have gone home after the first day because of the car troubles, but he attended everything."—AIDA MARAON

"Partying with Louie Y is a blast! He takes good care of you, makes you feel right at home, and you can be assured you're with GREAT company wherever, whatever. As long as he's around, your day or night is set to be a fun and classy one!"—ISSA LITTON

"It's been fun jamming with Louie for the last 30 years ... When we were younger in the 70s-80s, we drank more and were the ultimate hedonists. When I say party, it can mean go out on dates, or go to clubs, private houses, resto, bars—all fashion. It is a major part of our evening and so is the wine for me and vodka for Louie.

"Louie is most happily married. Now that he's older, he just encourages the hanuwas and pantes bros. I, on the other hand, can also have fun with my 19-year-old bachelor but more

SHOPPING at Disney store, Bryan Pinto and girlfriend Joanna Buenaventura

TWO Princesses in Disney Sea Princess and Princess Giselle

COSTUME designer Mona May with Little Mermaid Ariel

LA friends Emily and Chot Wong with cute baby Gabby

THE LITTLE Gym group, Pearl Tang, Amy Asteras-Nera and Paolo Nemar with Kelly Avila of Disney Pictures

Some enchanted evening

From page E1

The landmark Hollywood sign on the mountain is deliver us to the Renaissance Holly wood Hotel.

On World Premiere night, I got pre-Hollywood jitters. I got into my princess gown but suddenly wondered whether I should wear my wings and crown. What would Cinderella do?

She would have full faith in her Fairy godmother! So I headed for the ball with all my paraphernalia. No carriage was needed since the theater was only a block away.

Our group, Team Little Gym, was met in the lobby by Inquirer's Mae in Hollywood himself, Rufus Magsaysay, soon organized by his lovely wife Annet.

Getting to the theater was a story on its own. Just like in "Enchanted," where the fairy-tale princess Giselle pops up in the middle of New York, I had to walk on Hollywood Boulevard in my own Inconsigna gown, which turned out to be a traffic-stopper.

But thanks to our couple in Hollywood, who helped with my wings and gown, we finally made it to the El Capitan Theater.

DISNEY characters with Inquirer's Hollywood correspondent Rufus Magsaysay, his wife Janet and Sea Princess

ATHENA Pabbo flanked by The Little Gym teachers Sarah, Anna-Maria, Louise and LL. "Enchanted" was the first movie Athena watched in a theater.

CAPT. Jun Guerrero and Cresilda de Vera across the El Capitan Theater

ENCHANTED makeup booth at the Enchanted Experience affair

The actual red carpet is spectacular, lined by a multitude of cameras with flashes popping everywhere. VIP guests and show-biz personalities were everywhere! It was like the pages of OK! come to life.

With all this, the movie itself was anti-climactic. It was amazing that the Hollywood crowd applauded even in the midst of the film, not only when the final credits rolled.

The real Enchanted Experience was at the after party with all the princesses of Disney World present. They were so happy to pose with me. The rest of the guests asked which part of the movie I was in, to which I would reply, "The sequel."

"Enchanted's" costume designer Mona May was delighted with my outfit and asked who made my gown. That was another winning moment for fave couturier Raje Laurel, who actually just embellished the satin gown he made for me during the finals of "Celebrity Duets."

Perhaps he will follow Monique Lhuillier's footsteps to Hollywood.

Credit for my Fil-I ensemble must also go to jewelry designer Aimel Pupa, who lent me a beauty pageant crown. His new shop in Greenbelt 5 has all his magnificent pieces and his Miss Earth crowns can be shown upon request.

Also, Manny Capulla coordinated a pearl-and-crystal accessory, my bag was a Bea Valdes creation, my false eye lashes were Mac Ventura and my hair color was executed by Victor Ortega.

Credit, that's almost as long as the film credits!

The giant tent for the Disney Enchanted Experience was filled with Disney activities, from makeup sessions and dress-up dolls to carousel driving and rock climbing.

The tent will be open until Jan. 4, so any readers heading to the area could visit www.theenchantedexp.com for tickets.

Thanks to the very well-connected and influential Rufus and Janet, I was introduced to all the stars at the after party.

My evening highlight was not the photo-op with the super good-looking Prince Edward (James Marsden), but the one with my real-life crush, Patrick Dempsey.

As a friend (to "McDreamy" of "Grey's Anatomy," I was most excited to have my photo taken with him. Watch even joked that I must have had some work done to fly all the way from the Philippines looking like that.

And now I'm finally back home, fresh from the cartoon kingdom of Andalusia and armed with the usual movie premiere loot bags filled with Bath Wing cologne and CD's.

And it's great to be back in our own big city, with our own bright lights, our own boutique stores and our own bodacious bars. Happily ever after, indeed!

E-mail the author at inquirerstyle@inquirer.com.ph.

SLEEK interiors of Virgin Atlantic Airlines

AFTER-PARTY entertainment with the Disney Princesses

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Weddings

THE NEWLYWEDS on the bar-themed cake by Jessica dela Rama.

KAUFMAN-CASTRO NUPTIALS

Romantic wedding at cool garden

By Maxine Arvadza

THEIR FANTASTIC ROMANCE started with a side glance that handsome businessman David Kaufman made when he saw pretty-as-a-postcard Mai Castro, a successful interior designer and creator of her own in-demand bag label called Goddess, while they were both with separate companions at an outdoor classical concert in Manila five years ago.

ROMANTIC D2

Romantic wedding at cool gar

Mr. and Ms. David Kaufman in front of the reception area at Sonya's Garden

From page B1

Daniel K. was instantly captivated by her beauty, poise and style. But he was sure he needed more: see her again more for thought she was probably just visiting from Paris or New York.

"Then two weeks later, like a dream, I saw her again at a design exhibit where my entire company was a participant," he recalled. "At that time I said I had to seize the moment and approach her. I am so glad I did, because five years later here we are married as one."

She succinctly explained as see how she felt about her love, life and wedding, dubbing: "David and I proved and wished for a romance, intimate and memorable wedding. Only after did we fully realize, how literally our wish was granted!" she said.

"Our wedding was an amazing experience," she said. "We had it at the English garden, bed and breakfast of Asian Bonsai's garden. The solemn and moving ceremony was officiated by our church pastor, Jose Bendaña.

"We had the very talented Helen Sanvictores and his team to do our hair and makeup. He transformed my bridal entourage and especially myself into a epitome of goddess. David's mom (Cecille K.) and our close friends, Lysanne Manzone and Sheryl Pataño, coordinated with all our suppliers. Everything ran so smoothly."

Mrs. continued: "Fritz Villanueva, as if by magic, produced a perfect bouquet of my favorite (out of stock, out of season) white peonies, gathered and wrapped to ruffle silk satin ribbon and copper wire. It was lovelier than I had envisaged!"

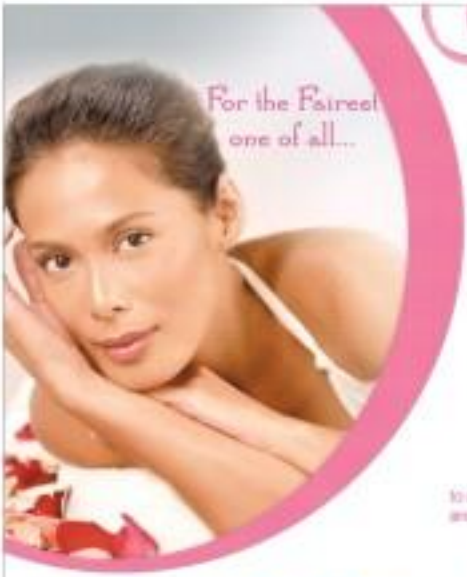
She added: "My dear friend, the very renowned Pury Quidaway, designed my romantic bridal gown, which had to be worn to be understood and believed. Its main feature were different fabrics in varying shades of neutral tone, which included 25 yards of chiffon, one bolt duty zetlan, and 300 balls of fine thread; cut and individually tied to form the train. The gown was quite heavy. It had to be divided into two parts. An elaborate train evoked a scene from the ballet 'Swan Lake.' Our whole-in-one (camiga, in their antique set) also by Pury, surpassed our expectations."

"Our wedding sponsors were a picture of

WITH real sponsors Debbie Cojuangco and Ayala

BRIDE with bridesmaids Mike Castro (left) and Phoenix (right), and father Ramon

FAMILY PIC: Bridal with parents Steve Kaufman and Elizabeth Hook



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rden

THE RAZONABLES: Cecille, David, Mel, Steve, Jr and Sean

PRETTY lower girls Sonia, Lee and Gabrielle

WITH godparents architects Dominic Galicia and Tina Peripaet-Galicia

BRIDESMAIDS Tina Manimtim, Ali Smith, Rhonna Martinez, Kriby and Pam Ayson with the bride

WITH godparents lawyer Andy and Fides Dra. Maria

LYNETTE Fernanda and Robert Yu, civil sponsors

BRIDESMAID Crystal Olarish and groomsman Luigi Alba

WITH godparents Francisco and Rosing Aguilar

Lady's Choice

Mayo Have a White Christmas!

elegance in their formal attire. My beloved father was handsome in a Mandarin-style barong, and as was my wanting groom lured in his immaculate, perfectly fitting, off-white rounds. I was a very proud and happy bride." Bhe said with due modesty in her tone.

Shimmering

"At the reception, Pido, who had been given only one task, 'to dazzle us,' for did just that," she said. "The Greenhouse was shimmering, it appeared to glow from the many pink and vanilla hanging drum lamps that were arrayed, aligned to the gorgeous banquet tables. There were flowers just everywhere, the perfect picture my had wished for; we could not be happier."

But the reception hours were the couple's close pals, Ali Smith and Richard Santos. Since during classes, the bride and groom had requested the entertainer to drop, they had their bridesmaids distribute pashmina shawls, which were flown in especially for this day.

Special individual gifts and customizable mini "Mel" macaroons were given to the bridesmaids, plus personalized gifts that were given to the godparents.

The yummy, eye-catching four-tiered wedding cake was made by Mel's close friend, Jenkins de los Reyes. It had pink blossoms, gold braid, crown lace, a three-tiered cord, and an inscription from Ecclesiastes 4:12 as the fourth layer: "A three-fold cord is not easily broken." This, to the newlyweds means, "that when God knotted lives, nothing is impossible."

After the cutting of the cake, Mel and David cooked the floor with the traditional Amiels plus breaking and dancing while singing "Islands Nights," which was dedicated to David's fathers.

"Looking back, we would those who had said that we were asking for the most impossible, to try to achieve our ideal wedding at such short notice," Mel said. "Trusting in God, and somehow that we had the full and unconditional support of friends, family and experts, we never for one moment doubted that our wedding will be wonderful."

FRUITY MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

Procedure:

CLASSIC CHICKEN MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

Procedure:

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and a recent, preferably color, photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO. Box 2103 Makati Central Post Office 1265 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and in order of receipt of the letters.

RINACES-GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Diego and Adelaida Ignacio will renew their marriage vows on Nov. 24, their 50th anniversary, at the chapel of St. Benedict, San Antonio Heights, Cainta-Antipolo, Dr.

Edic Pineda designed the bridal gown in water gold silk chiffon and chantilly lace. The gown is cut on the simple and has a ruched bodice trimmed with champagne tonal pailletes.

Reception will follow at the Sarapudio Seafood Palace, Sitio Bilibid, San Juan.

PESAYDAS-REYES

Shawnie Z. Pesaydas, son of Dr. Salvacion A. and Lydia Pesaydas, will wed Margie C. Reyes, daughter of Marie (deceased) and Ichie Reyes, on Jan. 6 at St. John The Evangelist Church, Dagupan City. Reception will follow at City De Luxe Restaurant, Dagupan City.

FLORES-VALERIO

Dr. Richard Anthony Flores, son of Dr. Demetrio and Dr. Lourdes Q. Flores, will wed Ma. Theresa Valerio, daughter of Eduardo and Nicolita Valerio, on Dec. 1 at the Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Reception will be held at the Manila Polo Club, Mahogany Road, Forbes Park.

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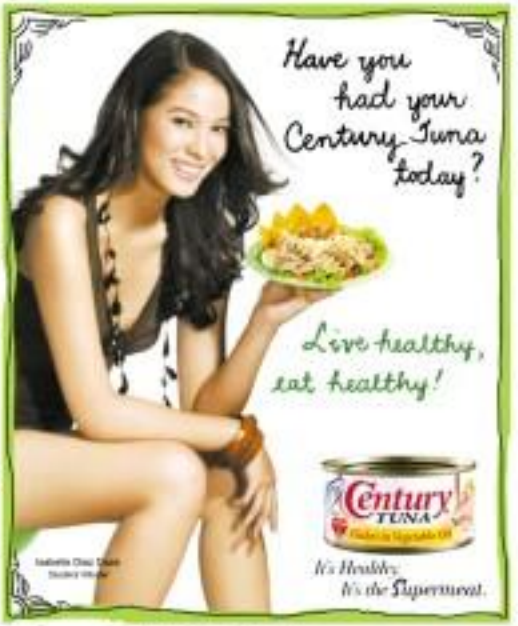
SMART The Power To Lead

WHETHER a student is low average or above average, Tutoring Club has a systematic approach that—with a slow or a fast learner, says its founder. PHOTOS BOB BALTAZAR



Tutoring with a difference

By Arne A. Jarabaro

SUCCESS COMES IN MANY forms. But whether it is winning the top plum in the spelling-bee competition or understanding and grabbing the rule for a school play, it is driven by one force: confidence.

It was, in fact, sheer confidence that drove a child, who had consistently struggled his entire school life to push his tenth grade past the 70s, to achieve a score in the 90s in just two months.

"He went up to 8th Dentre of third grade of 78. The teacher is amazed. He is now aiming his hand in class; he became confident. If you think you can do it, you probably can," said Lizzy Schwartz, founder of Tutoring Club (www.tutoringclub.com).

Tutoring Club offers a unique tutorial system that guarantees to improve a child's skills to at least one full grade level with 36 hours of tutoring. In the Philippines, it has branches in 8/5 Unit 2E-12, Retiro to High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig (tel. 856-2547), 897-TUTOR, and at the Bobal Center on the corner of Madison and Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills (tel. 712-0067, 0918-5-TUTOR).

"If the child comes here two to four hours per week, we'll move him up three grade levels in four to six months," Schwartz said.

By the time the child enters fourth grade, his mathematical skills would have placed him at a sixth or seventh grader. He's not only ahead of the block game, a mastered skill critical to an increasingly competitive society but his attitude toward losing (that, longer will improve dramatically as well, said Schwartz.

Traditional tutoring

The problem with traditional tutorial is the tendency for the tutor to become the child's crutch, quite possibly during this entire basic education. Burdened tutorial sessions, said Schwartz, is homework-based, meaning tutors begin by looking over the child's homework and tackling from there. Since there is a tendency to need a tutor today, tomorrow forever, it becomes a vicious cycle, and that's because the root cause of the problem has never been diagnosed and addressed.

"Algebra questions, for example, just fail the steps in solving a problem from then moves and repeat the process during school course but never really understand the concept," said master franchisee Rico Barcelos. Simply put, a kid will learn the "hows" but fail to grasp the "whys."

Skills Assessment, a diagnostic test, is required upon enrollment, said Shoshitz. The test will pinpoint the skill gaps of a student and discover the causes behind low academic performance. A college student at the Ateneo de Manila University continued Baradoza, never had a math skill of a seventh grader. If so we wonder how that she cannot get a passing grade in her college algebra subject.

"If you cannot solve 2/3 divided by ½, there's no way you're gonna do Algebra. The diagnostic test will identify your problems. Everything else that you know we won't touch. We won't waste your time, and we won't teach me time," Barcelos said.

Tutoring Club endows the learner confidence for her to give up tutoring altogether

Diagnostic

Tutoring Club has devised a computer system that combines a child's information and creates an off-it program that is based on the child's pace and capacity to learn skills at a time. The tutors then implement what the computer said.

Both the computer and tutor, however, are working up the same lockstep with the student. If the student needs to step back a bit, so the computer can specific skill, a child has his weakness and strengths in a particular subject, then the more appears the lessons until the student is ready to move up.

Whether a student is low average or above average, Schwartz said, Tutoring Club has a systematic approach that works a slow or a fast learner. With a ratio of one to six per three students, learning is enhanced because there is no pressure at all to rushly a problem as quickly as possible.

"Eventually comes once at the student as s/he successfully finishes his way through a problem. Then we give you problems to solve, let you do it on your own, and come back to you when you're done," Schwartz said.

The diagnostic test will also measure the required number of hours a student will require. (The rate is P500 per hour.) But regardless of how long a student may require the tutorial services, Barcelos said students are guaranteed to move up at least one level by the time they're done.

"We do not have a money-back guarantee, but if we said your child will move up three levels in six months then he will get three in six months...client's can guarantee," Barcelos said.

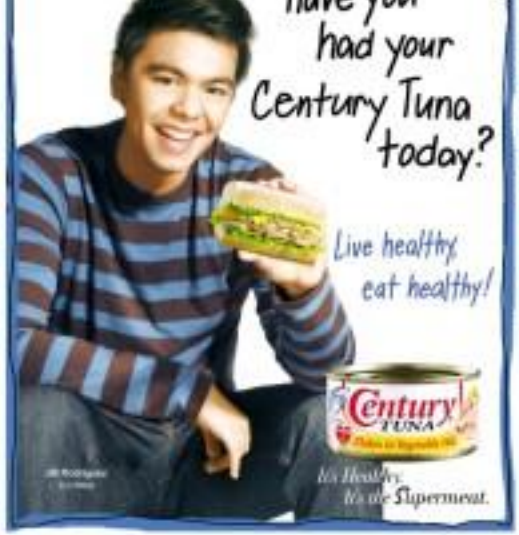
Schwartz founded the Tutoring Club more than 20 years ago when his son encountered difficulty in his reading skills. Although he was showed improvement, as a learner person. It became immediately both or how effective the tutoring industry was and found a tremendous try.

To cut the long story short, he bought the company and devised a new method to correct a troubled tutoring system—one that has been patented the exact same way since the 1980's, he said.

"You simply cannot have a tutor all your life. Everybody uses the tutor as a crutch. It is so much better not to have crutches and walk and run on your own," Schwartz said.

E-mail the author at ajarabaro@inquirer.com.ph

LARRY SCHWARTZ



RICO BARCELOS

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Gabella

Celebrating Dad

I ONCE HEAD SOMEWHERE that it takes much more than perseverance to make a father out of a man. A good father, that is.

Nowadays, fathers are evolving. They have become much more involved in the day to day details of their children's lives. They have grown more affectionate and demonstrative as compared to their counterparts 30 and even 10 years ago.

Statistics show that in the United States part of a new generation of men are redefining fatherhood. The mirasoft.org website says that according to census figures, one in four dads takes care of his preschooler during the time the mother is working. The number of children who are raised by a primary care father is now more than two million and counting. By all measures, fathers, even those who aren't full-time, are more involved in their children's lives than ever before.

The Pinoy dad has changed too, no longer just the breadwinner he has now redefined his role in the family. Twenty-five years ago, our vast majority dads knew how to change diapers, nor had the inclination or desire to bust a bote in. Today countless reinvent-ish show a father rocking his child to sleep, offering an adult child tower medicine, and yes, comparing diaper brands with other dads.

Jun de Leon's beautiful coffee-table book "Our Father," profiles 62 Filipino fathers from different generations. It is a given that De Leon's photographs speak volumes in itself, but the heart-rending essays and testimonials written by the subject's children will certainly tug at every parent's heart.

The book is a dream project for De Leon who was separated from his then five-year old daughter Nina, almost two decades ago. During that period, the idea for a book on fathers germinated and grew in De Leon's mind, as he "painted in the pieces of his life."

De Leon says, "Making this book was every bit of a dream come true. The positive response of the fathers and the impressive support of their families overwhelmed me beyond words."

He adds that as he sat with many of the fathers he shot for the book, "The awesome and insightful learning experiences. Of this, I am now unmistakably certain: I am far from being the perfect father that I want to be, but I will continue the journey. It is a blessed that one turns to be broken." Sometimes like a true artist and father.

The book profiles such distinguished fathers as Washington Sycip,

Jun de Leon's book of photographs is a heartfelt tribute to fathers.

Wilfred Uytengsu, Manny Villar, Joey Antonio, Rolando Hortaleza, Diosdado Nadres, Dennis Tanseco, Samot Ocampo, Tony Meloto and many more.

In turn, De Leon's daughter Chris-tine has this to say, "If being successful-ly is to accept a person without judgment then this is how we, his children, love him. It is unconditional because our dad can be impossible, unstoppable, stubborn ... But for all the resistance, we have a bond with our dad that he unstoppable, the tough times. Maybe because we know that he grew up without a father and that he valued us the best way he could."

The book can easily be a manual on what it takes to become an excellent father. Several themes run through the children's responses. A great father is obviously one who instills character and leads by example. He is one who's not afraid to show affection. He makes his family a priority in spite of a busy schedule. He is someone who passes on the values of faith, family, work discipline and holding on to one's word.

He is quick to discipline but disperses it in a quiet and dignified manner that makes the lesson sink harder. He loves his wife and his children unconditionally. He teaches me a lot about how to push a point forward and strengthen my arguments. When I was younger, I'd always tell he argument stops that, unbeknown to me, I had lost. It was annoying and quite frustrating. As I grew up, I finally realized what he was doing: he was sizing me up, testing my worth, preparing me for bigger arguments and battles—to-dowd. He made I worked my way up to do what he had been training me to do."—Kimi, 17, on dad David Guerrero

"It's amazing to know that Aga has influenced studies not only in his passion for exploring nature and dancing, but even his choice of style. When ever Andres goes to school, he likes to put on a zip, wear his shades and dress in big hip clothes. Awed by the vision of a small version of him, Aga cannot help but tell his son that, just like him, Andres, too, is the fruit of the labor."—Charlene Ysabel Aguila, twins Sasha and Andres, 5, on Aga Muhlach

"My father
Cuddles me at night
Sings a story and turns off the light
Then kisses me on the head
And says the words he has always said

I know that from the heart these words are true
Because what he says is 'I love you'"
— Andrea, 11, on dad Jun Ayala

"Dad was never the disciplinarian, but you'd know by the sound of his voice and the look in his eyes when he was disappointed. In his own unique way, he encouraged us. I remember, when I was in high school, I had a quarterly failing grade for the first time in my life. Dad came to me in my room, quietly joined me on my bed, and told me, 'Bunsgod-hypolo si Ga-mind ji. Study harder and make up for it in the next quarters.' That was all he uttered. I could see that he was trying to mask his disappointment with his encouraging tone and a pat on my back. Tears of embarrassment almost fell from my eyes, and I never, ever had any failing mark after that."—Mipi, 34, on dad Symot Rosete

"My dad is my Optimus Prime, the leader of the Autobots and the greatest threat to the Decepticons! Like Optimus Prime, he protects us beyond limits and teaches us to fight for what is right. We love dad so much because he defends us, he gives us blessings and teaches us how to become better persons."—Miguel, 10, on dad Butch Jimenez

"Our Father" is photographed by Jun De Leon, and edited by Mary Rose Abad-Jimenez. Call 6081188 or 09175056212.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

UPIS alumni homecoming

"GINTOT IYAK NIMEME LAKLAK, Hamatalalahak!" is the theme of this year's grand alumni homecoming of the UP Integrated School on Dec. 8, Saturday, at the school's Multi-Purpose Hall.

All alumni of the UP Integrated School, UP High School, UP High Prep, IP/Prep and UP Elementary are invited to this afternoon extravaganza hosted by the Silver Jubilarians of UPIE, the batch of 1982. The event honors the Golden Jubilarians of Batch 1957 and the other celebrating batches of 1947, 1952, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002.

On that day the UPIS grounds will be transformed into a big street party where guests will be treated to good food, fun, games, prizes and entertainment.

Registration starts at 2 p.m. For more information, contact any of the following Alumni Homecoming Steering Committee members: Enrico Ilarina (09189059411), Atty. Ado Abad (09175128857322), Anne Jimenez Marjo (09184176799) and Pennie Militante (09175222084), or log on to www.upiehi.com.ti

Nickelodeon at MOA

NICKELODEON'S BIG HELP 2007 campaign is set to end with a bang on Dec. 1, 2-6 p.m. at the Mall of Asia Complex, JW Diokno Blvd cor. Coral Way (in front of SMX Convention Center). Come in for free.

Nickelodeon partners with General Ballon featuring Bryann Jacquiet, K-Zone and Total Girls to give all a lot of fun and Nick-style play.

To be featured is the Share-meHover that will display the lovely and elements of sharing gathered in the past six months. There will also be modules, games, Share Squares and photo op stations.

You can come to The Big Help Day by bringing something... books, clothes, toys, first or spare change ... anything you might want to share with others. All these collected will be donated to the UB Hunang Bayan group.

The event will be hosted by SEA 2006 Pinoy Wannabe Sam Concepcion and Boracay finds Joseph. There will be special performances from Sagapay, Gamit, and others in surprise guests. Philippine Big Help ambassador Makisig Morales will lead the fun and convenience as Nickelodeon turns over the donations to Gil Garcad Kalinga collected from the Nickelodeon's The Big Help Special Edition Cutouts distributed in schools over the past few months.

Do Pinoys read at all?

By Queenie N. Lee-Chua

A national survey shows that reading has declined, with Metro Manilans reading less and less and pulling the rest of the nation down the road to illiteracy

WHAT IS THE most popular book read outside of school by 10 Spinoy? No. 9 is not Harry Potter, but the Bible, according to the 2007 National Book Development Board (NBDB) leadership survey, 67 percent of respondents across the country read the Bible the most, followed by romance or love novels (32 percent), cookbooks (28 percent), school books (26 percent) and religious or inspirational works (19 percent).

Other relatively popular book categories in 2007 are, in this order: business, science (in my delight), horror and suspense, family planning, business, sports and fitness, health and medicine, government, law, agriculture, lifestyle, homes, animals, child rearing, social issues, and biographies.

Early this year, the NBDB commissioned the Social Weather Stations to do a second Readership Survey (the first was done in 2003). There were 1,200 respondents: 300 each from the NCR, Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao. Respondents answered detailed questions about their reading habits, preferences, attitudes and behavior. (I am a governing board member of the NBDB.)

Decline in reading

First, the bad news. Generally, the survey shows that reading has slightly declined in our nation. Only 93 percent of respondents say they read, down two percent from 2003. The reading of books, comics, newspapers, and magazines has gone down, by seven, 13, 14, and 15 percent, respectively.

Why the decline? One culprit is the National Capital Region (NCR). Surprisingly, the NCR is the only cluster in the country where reading has decreased, by five percent. In Luzon it succeeds NCR, readership has actually increased by two percent, and in Mindanao, readership have held steadily.

Despite the proliferation of bookstores, publishers, and libraries in the NCR, book readers have decreased by a whopping 14 percent, from 95 percent in 2003 to 84 percent in 2007. Magazine readers in the NCR have decreased by 27 percent, comics readers by 31 percent, and newspaper readers by 16 percent.

But there is good news elsewhere. In the Visayas, general readership has increased by four percent. Readers of books in the Visayas increased by 11 percent; comics readers, by 16 percent; magazine readers, by nine percent. Newspaper readers have decreased by four percent.]

It is interesting to note that NBDB has done a lot of intervention programs in the Visayas, such as the Bookbinder community reading activities, which may possibly have accounted in part for the increase.

Kudos to the youth

The youth are leading the way. They start to read non-school books at age 10, on average, one year earlier than in 2003. Again, NCR is the poor exception—young people here start reading non-school books at age 13 on average, two years later than the national norm.

Unfortunately, reading has declined across all age groups, except again for the youth, those in the 10 to 24 age bracket, where the percentage of readers has in fact gone up. Does this mean that we read less as we grow older? I hope not.

Reading has also declined across all socioeconomic groups, except those in the AB class. Public school students now read fewer books, newspapers, magazines, and comics than they did in 2003, and as for private school respondents, the slight increase in reading today is only among those reading comics.

History is on percent of urban respondents read, compared to 88 percent in the rural areas. This may be explained by the lack of access to reading materials in areas far from city centers.

Reading behavior

Drawn read anytime they want. Evidently, reading non-school books is not a habit for most people, except for some who read before going to sleep. The number of books read in the past year is seven on the average.

An average of seven books a year is not too bad, but what is alarming is the median number of books read, which is a low three. This means that even if half the adult population of the Philippines have read three or more non-school books in the past year, the other half have read only at most three, or worse, no books at all.

Why do we read? More than 40 percent of the respondents read to gain knowledge or more information. The rest read for enjoyment. Almost half of the readers read books by Filipino authors only, while the other half read both local and foreign books.

However, the majority of the respondents, whether they read or not, have few books at home. (More than forty percent have at most only five books in their homes.)

Why? Perhaps more readers prefer to read online other than print, such as the Net. Perhaps others turn to other types of entertainment, such as TV. Perhaps the cost of books has become prohibitive for most of us.

The survey does not analyze the reasons why, but the research team offers some recommendations. "The challenge is for booksellers and publishers, printers and paper and ink manufacturers, to make more books affordable. The government can facilitate this, as well as the financing of technology upgrades to make operations more efficient and economical."

Authors are also challenged to write more books, not just to entertain, but also to inform, to teach the readers skills or to convey to them practical knowledge. Community libraries (should encourage) adults and out-of-school youth to like to read books, and educators, to teach students to read longer materials, such as books."

The NBDB will present the 2007 Readership Survey results to the public on Nov. 28, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Publishers, reading associations, educators, and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend. For more details, call the NBDB at 5589853.

Accreditation for pioneering school

THE BEACON SCHOOL HAS BECOME the first educational institution in the Philippines to receive authorization from the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) in Switzerland to offer the Middle Years Program (IB-MYP, Grades 6-10).

With the recognition received Nov. 20, the Beacon School, an IBO World School, has the distinction of being the first and only fully authorized educational institution in the Philippines accredited at every level of its academic programs by the IBO.

The accreditation was also achieved in record time.

Beacon's Primary Years Program (IB-PYP) PS-Grade 10 was accredited in 2004.

The pioneering 7-year old school is an independent, non-profit, co-educational K-8 school. Its curriculum is based on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Framework.

Beacon is committed to providing a global education of the highest quality centered on an understanding of Filipino culture and traditions, to children of all nationalities.

It seeks to enable students to think critically and creatively by establishing a strong foundation in academics, the humanities, spiritual education, and physical education.

The school also has a community outreach program, building ties with barangays, a public school in Taguig, and teacher training programs in Batangas.

Each year, Beacon students pool their resources together to help fund underprivileged students, tackle issues of poverty, environmental degradation, and community development.

Students as young as 6 years old learn about their environment and the impact their actions have.

Beacon School accepts students aged 2½ to 15 years old. Beacon School is at the PCPD compound, 2332 Pasong Tamo Ext., Taguig (www.beaconschool.ph, tel. 8406946, e-mail admissions@beaconschool.ph).

WIZARD OF OZ

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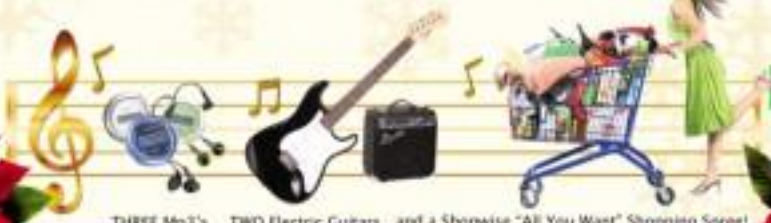

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

The return of Isabel Preysler

An exclusive with one of the most beautiful and glamorous women in the world

(ISABEL with Imelda Cajayon-Locsin and Ambeth Ocampo at Locsin's home in Antipolo)

By Armee Sarmiento
Contributor

IT WAS ISABEL PREYSLER Week when one of Europe's most glamorous, beautiful and iconic women came to Manila. Isabel, who had not been home for more than eight years, took Manila by storm. She was here to attend the luxe Soto and Ben Madrid gala fashion show and, of course, to see friends and family.

As reported, everyone wanted to spend some time with this newly minted Filipina, and a series of dinners were immediately planned for her. The first one was, naturally, given by her family at the home of her first cousin, Bernina Tuason Fores. Another one was hosted by her Assumption classmates at the home of Mimi de Leon. Then there was the fashion show. The next day after the show, Soto also hosted a dinner at Sala, and guests included Paloi and Sofia Elizalde, Maurice Arcache, Ben Valdes, Elizabeth Steven, Gina Roxas and Pilar Roxas. The Philippine Tatler, likewise, gave a dinner for her at the Rhodesia Oriental Manila's Tivoli Grill, which was attended by Ting Ting Cojuangco, Lyn Ramos-Bildner, Doris Ho, Inno Avila and her sister Vicky Ferrater and niece Christina Tuason. Jaime and Ben Zobel also gave a dinner at their home before she left.

Preysler had to jet back to Europe in time to catch her son Enrique Iglesias' concert in London. She flew daughters Ana and Tamara on to Madrid with her in the concord, along with about 15 other friends.

We find out how Isabel Preysler really is, she had barely arrived in Madrid when pictures of her in Manila came out in Spain's pioneer society lifestyle magazine Hola. The magazine has a circulation of more than a million readers.

I was privileged to get an exclusive interview with Preysler in Manila at the end of her visit. Below is the one-on-one with this beautiful and gracious lady that the whole country is exposed to!

What is it like coming home after eight years? Seeing family, friends and classmates again? Seeing Manila as a city?

Coming back to Manila after so long was wonderful. I can say family often because we travel a lot and they come to Spain. But friends ... I always love to see the ones from my childhood and teens years, they are part of my roots. Manila has changed so much in eight years—so many more buildings and so much life and restaurants.

What else you notice most about the Philippines?

Printing life.

PRINT TOWN

www.printtown.com.ph

EMILY'S POST
Emily Maroño

Sister-in-law has overstayed her welcome

DEAR EMILY,

I have do my wife and I tell her sister that she should get a life, and stop living ours?

My wife and I are already happily married, have a beautiful daughter and our own house.

My wife's sister is unmarried, has no kids and no house of her own—the reason she is always in our house.

She is with us every Saturday afternoon and stays until Sunday evening. She eats our food, she keeps us from watching our own television, reads the Sunday paper before we do and even takes it to the bathroom with her.

She spends hours on our computer and has to be asked to let us use it. She comes with us whenever we go—to church, to the mall, even to the supermarket.

Worst is on emerging her and she does not take hints. When my wife casually mentioned that we wanted to take a vacation one of the country she immediately checked her schedule and said she would see if she was free during that time so she could come with us—without being invited.

She does not have any sisters and just enjoys reading and watching gossip shows about actors and actresses. She is the typical couch potato, and about the same size and shape.

If others see give my wife and I much private time as a married couple, with her constant presence. We already tried telling her to go out more and make something of her life. Sometimes she does, but concerns quickly re-on, her routines runs.

How do we tell her to get her own life?

CC

I am looking at both sides here and I can see your point and your sister-in-law's dependence on you.

You are lucky that you have a good job abroad, happily married and quite content with your lot.

Your sister-in-law, however, is not so lucky. She seems to be quite lost and holds on to her sister's (your wife's) somewhat idyllic existence so as not to get carried away by this strong current of loneliness.

Her constant comings and goings have created a comfort zone that she has grown accustomed to.

She obviously has not found it necessary to develop interests outside her sister's family —meaning yours—given her physical duty and proximity to it. Clearly, her intrusion on your weekends is no big deal to her.

She is probably seeing that the five days she is out of your hair should be enough time for you and your wife to be alone. She does not even consider her presence an intrusion, judging from the way she takes over your TV, the newspaper, your computer.

You are family to her. Period. Family does not shoo away family. They are taken care of as infinitum... ad nauseum.

Insincere with your sister-in-law's character has to be confronted head on. Hints and doubles talk have not worked—you said so yourself.

If you want to solve this nagging irritant, you and your wife should deal with her as you can talk your wife to talk to her sister alone over lunch at a neutral place one weekday, and try on the problem simply but emphatically but kindly framed.

She should be made to understand that you and your wife are young and want to savor each other passionately in the privacy of your own home without having to avoid unnecessarily jarring date relations.

She is really a bit of hard if she cannot understand something so simple and so delicate as this!

She is a big girl now and must start her own life without depending on you. Gently she has to be told that she must resolve on her own, for her own sake those and, afterward, stop being sister-in-law.

Remember your Geometry—the shortest distance between two points is a straight line!! Put it to the test.

E-mail the author at emailtoemily@yahoo.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer Visit www.phi.gov.ph and listen to Mr. Maroño on hour the program "Bahlanan Ngalanan" 7-11 AUBlyon, Monday-Friday, on dwBB 1264 AM.

SOWOK, children of Cardinal Sin Village in Sta. Ana, Manila

DORA, the popular Nickelodeon heroine, is the centerpiece of the Christmas displays in Robinsons Malls.

NGO Maya, Robinsons Malls general manager, turns over donations to Fr. Arnold Rae Kimatac, assistant parish priest of Pasay Sto. Nino, Manila.

Intrepid preschooler set to 'explore' the Philippines

By Kaiser Bago-Reyes

THE PRECOCIOUS ADVENTUROUS, sweet, sincere and, most of all, fun-loving seven-year-old Dora, the Explorer, is about to "explore" the Philippines.

Literally, the cutie(s) around the world of the beloved preschooler and her best friend, a monkey named Boots, have taken her to the Philippines.

If you are a fan of Dora and want to learn more about this adventurous girl, check her out at Robinsons Malls that dazzle her the centerpiece of their holiday decor and announce this year.

The Latina girl gained fame through Nickelodeon where, through her singing, dancing, and interactive play, she teaches kids about Spanish culture, helping them learn a Spanish word in every episode.

She has become a favorite of many Filipino kids who recently buy every new item in Dora's expansive product line.

"We've chosen Dora as this year's theme because she definitely offers quality-and-educational entertainment to children," said Nestor Cuenca, Robinsons Malls' marketing communications director. "We also wanted to give our shoppers a distinct and unique experience – something that the whole family can enjoy."

Aside from fun and colorful visuals, Robinsons will also stage the musical "Dora's Best Friends Day."

CELEBRITY: Friendship and the holidays with Dora the Explorer and her friend Boots and Australian performer Karina Lawrence in a live musical show at Robinsons malls.

"The value of friendship and camaraderie and the treasuring of having special moments with your loved ones is the essential message of that musical," said Gonzales.

Children and adults will see Dora, Boots and Tico, the squirrel, sing and dance. The musical will be shown at Robinsons Place Ermita this Nov. 23 and Robinsons Place Manila on Nov. 30.

Other shows are: Dec. 1, Robinsons Novaliches Market; Dec. 2, Robinsons Gateway, Pasig; Dec. 7, Robinsons Galleria; Dec. 9, Robinsons Place Ilocos; and Dec. 15, Robinsons Place Bacolod.

Shows will be held twice daily, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

At Robinsons Sta. Rosa and Robinsons Place Angeles, shows will be held at 4 p.m. on Dec. 8 and Dec. 14, respectively.

Meet and Greet sessions with Dora and her friends will be on Dec. 16, 4 p.m., at Robinsons Cebu; Dec. 23, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Robinsons Bacolod; and Dec. 22, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Robinsons Place Iloilo.

Dazzling decor

As in the past, Robinsons is not sparing any detail in ensuring its Christmas displays will please not just shoppers but passersby, too.

"It is for the kids that we deck the malls with bright lights and colorful textures, giving the season more glitter and sparkle," said Rosanna Villegas, Robinsons Land Corp. public relations manager.

Animated Christmas displays will be featured in all Robinsons' Malls. The Dora theme will be carried in various displays in the canopies, atriums and outdoor settings.

Special attractions include a stunning 80-foot tall Christmas Tree at Robinsons Novaliches; a 350 sq.m. Snow the Explorer Adventure Playland at Robinsons Starmills; a 1,000 sq.m. interactive playground at Robinsons Place Ilo. Ilo. Some where kids can visit a Butterfly garden, Tree House in a mini Sea, Rainbow Bark Tunnel, Steve's House, and a Fun Dive log ramp.

Robinsons' Malls in Imus, Cavite and Bacolod will feature a 30-minute outdoor animated musical show with "Dora the Explorer" as theme.

At Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, shoppers and passersby along Aguinaldo Highway will be treated to a 30-minute animated musical show that includes a Sesh Rainbow Rock Mountain.

Kids can have special photo sessions with a Chocolate Tree backdrop. A small pond with a bridge will be set up as play area.

Larger than life Dora-inspired décor will be featured in all the malls.

Robinsons-Galleria-officially ushered in the holiday season by recently unveiling its Christmas display. The formal lighting ceremony of the Christmas tree was attended by Quezon City officials and mall officers. Highlight was the grand array of the mall's donations to residents of the Cardinal Sin Village in Pasay, Sto. Ana, Manila.

HAREL with mom, Betty Prepular-cousin Rosanna Fores; sister Vicky Prepular and niece Christina Yenzon; aunt Mercy Tesoro, and good friend Craig Macdonald (topmost)

The return of Isabel . . .

From page 11

Family and friends, first of all. Then the food. I love Filipino food, although I miss Italian and Spain. And of course, Filipino hospitality, which is something that cannot be found anywhere but here.

How's your visit? Hectic? Too short?

Both – definitely hectic and too short; but I am enjoying every minute of it.

What would you say are the highlights of your trip?

Spending time with family and friends. Of course, the Dora the Explorer show was a wonderful event. My classmates also made my stay in Manila memorable by hosting a get-together to allowed us to catch up and share some laughs.

You got a lot of attention in Spain. Is it the same with people you have in Manila who would like to meet you and ask to have photographs taken with you?

It's a compliment and always a pleasure when people want to meet me or take a picture with me. It's fun and appreciated – it's such a blessing, isn't it?

Your trip was a time to catch up with your family. What was that like?

This trip gave me the opportunity to spend more time with some of my cousins who I do not see often, although I have and that I see many of my relatives frequently, it was nice to visit them in their homes for a change.

How was the fashion show? Your thoughts on Inter's designer? Ben Isabilo?

Fantastic! Beautiful colors, very original and creative and, as usual, Inter showed his creative talent and Filipino ingenuity. Ben Isabilo? What can I say? So much talent in someone so young. I loved the beautiful bags.

What will you take with you from this trip?

So many fresh memories with my life-long friends. And food – mangoes, sinigang, and camaro rebak; she took along with her back to Spain!

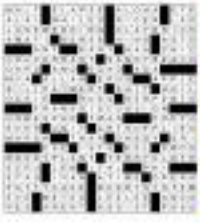
When do you think will you be back?

Because I have three children and a grandson in the United States, I take every opportunity I have to visit them. But when we are all able to, I definitely want to some back soon with all of my children. The last time I was here, my three girls came with me. Julie and Enrique have also been here, but we all must come back to Manila together.

Your message to your family, friends and the country as a whole?

I am so grateful for the warmth, the care and love I have felt in Manila (city and rural areas) especially over the years. Although I do not get the chance to come back to Manila often enough, I'm always so overwhelmed by the support I get from my family and friends.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



A musical Christmas treat

THE ANIA MALLS BRING TO the country "Smashical The Musical" this Christmas season!

It will be the first time that the Broadway musical is going to be performed in the country and also the first time that it will be brought to a mall setting.

Ayala Malls' special christmas offering this year, the musical will feature Dr. Seuss' most famous characters like the Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Mayzie La-Bird and all of the Whos of Whoville.

Adapted from the original Broadway version but condensed into a 45-minute one act show, Smashical The Musical was given Christmas-themed sets, costumes and a Christmas carol by Atlanta Productions.

The Cat in the Hat, probably one of the most loved Dr. Seuss characters, is host and emcee of the show that will include classics like How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Green Eggs and Ham, The Sneetches Smile and, of course, The Cat in the Hat.

The show is presented with special permission by Mandy Theatrical Services based, with original music by Stephen Flaherty, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, book by Ahrens and Flaherty and concept by Ahrens, Flaherty and Eric Idle of Monty Python fame.

Sharing the role of Cat in the Hat are NIKKI GIL, Benamor Tianvelo and Rocyllo.

Staged in the country by Atlanta Production, the Philippine version is directed by Chuti Arcajo-Chuga, with choreography by Dexter Santos, lighting design by Jay Ananda, costume design by Twinkle Serrano and production supervision by Bobby Lawsin.

"Smashical The Musical!" will have a run in Alabang Town Center today, followed by performances in Trinoma, Dec. 1-2; Ayala Center Cebu, Dec. 7-9; and Glorietta, Dec. 12-16.

NIKKI GIL

Amateur choir contest

WHO WILL BE THE FIRST choir to win in the Kuro Bago Pre-Christmas Inter-Collegiate Amateur Choral Competition?

Finalists are choirs of the City College of Manila, Jose Rizal University, Metro Manila College, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, St. Louis College of Valenzuela, Trinity University of Asia, UP Diliman, and Wesleyan University-Philippines.

Finals night is on Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m. at the Cinema 6 of the SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Tickets available at P300 and P750.

The contest is presented by Vina Inspirational Music / Vina Concerts and sponsored by Union-Bank, Island Beer, 98.7 EEPJ-FM, and 101.5 MAX-FM. Call 453-1171 or log on to www.vinamusic-corp.com for more information.

Yuletide album

PRE-ORDER A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR your family and friends: "Pamaskong Tanging Yaman" CD, which contains 12 personal favorite songs of Jesuit priest Blanding Francisco, composer of liturgical classics like "Hindi Kita Malilimutan," "Take and Receive," "Singing Yaman" and "Si Ama Ama." "Pamaskong Tanging Yaman" contains songs chosen from 12 CDs produced by Jesuit Communications...songs spanning 22 years of songwriting from "Sweet Heart," which he wrote before he Blanding entered the Society of Jesus in 1980, to "Pasasalamat," composed recently. Proceeds of the Christmas CD will help the Tanging Yaman Foundation in fund a college scholar in every region of the Philippines.

CDs will be sold in sets of 3 CD coupes, at P1,000 per set. Bulk sized orders below the Dec. 1 cut-off. Call Ryan or Ani, Tanging Yaman Foundation at 426-4181 local 3042.

Travel: How RP lures Korean students /G3

Sunday LIFESTYLE

THE SILVER Grand Cafe 12-cup, silver and black with a glass jar

THE ROYAL Deep Fryer Easy has removable inner pot, removable filter lid and non-stick coating

Princess appliances are more than just pretty faces; they seem to be quite efficient, too

CORDLESS Royal Water Kettle is available in two sizes, 1L and 1.7L.

CHEF Cas Spijkers (right) demonstrates how to use the Princess electric grill.

A royalty in your home

By Linda B. Bohle

WITH LIVING spaces shrinking, people need appliances that are multitaskers, even just serving the dual purpose of being both decorative and functional.

Let's face it. While many items now in the market perform what they are supposed to do quite well, they may have to be kept in a dark, secluded place until they are needed because they just clash with the decor.

Sometimes, however, there is not even that dark, secluded place for keeping useful but not-so-photogenic pieces. When living space is cramped, adequate storage may be a luxury.

Opting for the pretty faces in the market may not be a wise alternative. Often, good looks are all that is going for them. While they may enhance the ambiance of your home, they may not be as sturdy and efficient as you want them to be.

But none a royalty may just get you out of that dilemma. You can have a princess in your home that is sure to look at and appeal to be as efficient and functional.

A fourth branch of small appliances has made its grand entrance in the Philippine market, joining the HH Department Store chain's offerings at its Homeworld section.

Princess brand items are cleanly stylish and innovative in design, pretty little things that you will proudly put on your kitchen countertop or even your dining table while doing your bidding.

Cas Spijkers, master chef and ambassador of the brand, assures prospective owners of Princess that the products have both beauty and "brains." In fact, although launched in the Netherlands only in 1994, Princess is now in 70 countries and has become the world's largest supplier of small domestic appliances in chrome and stainless steel.

Spijkers conducted a cooking demonstration during his brief visit to demonstrate just how versatile and convenient a Princess is, specifically its range of electronic grills. With no or little oil, Spijkers grilled satay, steak and a few other items in a matter of seconds-almost three afterwards simply wiped the plate with a piece of cleanse paper to prepare it for another round of cooking.

Gilbert Wong, export director for Asia Pacific, says the non-stick construction of the grill with its unique ridges and the coarse of Teflon does not allow the taste of whatever was cooked previously to stick in the grill and affecting the flavors of subsequent items. It also makes for easy cleaning.

On the other hand, "the use of 100-percent aluminum allows for efficient heat transfer by quick cooking," in fact, Wong says it may be more efficient, if not more, than the oven, Spijkers says.

As for health concerns about Teflon and aluminum being transferred to food, Wong says there is no need to worry. He says the Teflon coat is so thick and strong there is very little risk that inadvertent scratching will loosen the non-stick cover.

With regard to aluminum, he says the substance is not exposed to the surface to result in transfer to food.

For its blenda debut, Princess, which promises to have consumer-friendly prices starting from as low as P1,000, brings four distinct product lines. The Classic line is the largest collection of stainless steel household products.

Living up to its name, the Royal line has stately white shiny finish, almost like sparkling pearl.

The Silver line features thermo plastic products with a silver finish and with designs that are innovative, almost futuristic, while remaining functional.

The Steel line draws inspiration from retro fashion. Vintage-looking pieces, such as a bread toaster that looks like an old fashioned chunky radio, are made more attractive by their vivid red hues.

THE SILVER Turbo Mixer has five speeds and turbo.

THE CLASSIC Egg Cooker and Steamer is made of brushed stainless steel. It has six egg rests and comes with a steam rack.

PRINCESS' Karin Van Rompay Schieff and chef Spijkers

Garden of joy

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Augusto dela Cruz

Created to mark a happy occasion, the patch of green at the Pascual's backyard has become a venue for activities of the group Ligaya ng Panginoon

WHEN ANNA MARIA LOURDES Pascual, Wita to her family, turned 16, she decided she would rather have a garden party at home instead of a big bash in a five-star hotel or a fancy restaurant.

But the family garden was just a few corners of greenery, not big enough to hold hostesses and active young people. There was, however, an empty lot at the back of the family home where Dr. Abraham Pascual and his wife Sylvia planted vegetables and the children used as playground.

The Pascuals decided to acquire the property and a landscaper was hired to turn it into a real garden in time for the coming-out party.

That "inaugural" event appears to have established a pattern for the garden. Now more than a decade later, the garden has become a venue not just for family parties but also for get-togethers and other activities organized by Ligaya ng Panginoon, an organization committed to strengthening family relationships to which the Pascuals belong.

With a swimming pool and jacuzzi (recently the Pascuals added a spa that can comfortably accommodate three people), the well-planted mountainside holds swimmers, social activities, even mini camp-outs by setting up tents in the spacious ground.

Both doctor/ executives, the Pascual couple willingly lend their garden for free to the organization Ligaya ng Panginoon that works to strengthen marital bonds.

CANOPIED swing invites quiet romantic moments.

THE SOUVENIR wall contains memories of various trips the family has made.

SYLVIA Pascual takes care of the sprawling garden's aesthetics.

THE SPACE pavilion allows for meetings and seminars of Ligaya ng Panginoon members.

The garden itself has become a cumpadi project for the Pascuals. The landscaper has long gone. Though there are two employees from Bukidnon who keep the grounds clean and the plants trimmed and watered, the couple has divided the task of keeping their garden well-stocked and aesthetically organized.

Dr. Pascual, a graduate of pharmaceutical chemistry, chooses and collects the plants, applying the scientific process of trial-and-error in deciding what will remain in the garden.

"I like test a couple (of plants) to see if they are suitable to the garden, given its soil and the green that thrive here," he said. Not surprisingly, the garden is filled with hardy and low-maintenance varieties like bromeliads, ornamental (also known as bot. Petrosiva), ferns and a variegated pandakaki, among others.

Sylvia said, "It is therapy for him, a respite from the stress of the corporate world." He used to have a sizeable collection of orchids, his wife said, wanting to go into orchid farming when he retired. But the exotic blooms needed a lot of attention, smothering the chill of the Pinoy pharmaceutical firm Pascual Laboratories, a pioneer and leader in the manufacture of generic drugs and scientifically developed herbal formulations, was unable to provide given the demands of his job.

She laughingly recalled that when he marked his 50th birthday he asked friends and family to give him plants in lieu of gifts, more giving them a list of the varieties he wanted for his garden.

But as his plants increased in number, Pascual realized there had to be some sense of order and harmony in the garden as he asked his wife, who until she turned in the dole-house, to apply her aesthetic sense to the greenery. She was only too happy to do so.

Looking at all the plants that were accumulating in the garden, she felt that they needed to be put to order. "Gusto kong sabihin," she said, he like had the gardeners snow things around, creating nooks and crannies with interesting features.

A small pool is filled with water plant. Old Dame Juana that were cured in containers. Ex-medicine provided contrast to the rosewood green of groups of plants. Large boulders that came with the property were broken up into smaller pieces and scattered in different parts of the garden. Caple lamps and ferns were hung from the branches of a wilosa tan grape, one of the first trees Pascual planted.

When a son built his house on the other side of the garden, wooden stairs were built making the greenery as much a part of the young Pascual's property as his parents'.

Though they are not next-door neighbors, members of the Ligaya ng Panginoon were also given access to the garden. Sylvia said because the organization often held activities there, the garden had been enhanced by some Ligaya families or friends ng Ligaya. She said it had become a retreat house, a venue for debuts and weddings, prayer meetings, etc. With its pool and sauna, people even go on vacations there, bringing their own food and entertainment.

Guests are free enjoying the pool even more after the family stopped using chlorine to keep it clean, relying instead on microbes.

But the Pascuals do not mind. "Enough room there to share it with the community," Sylvia said.

At least once a week, however, the area is exclusively for the Pascual couple's use. "It is our bonding time," she said.

DAPHA jhanes were used as containers for pharmaceutical preparations in the early years of the Pascual Laboratories.

A LARGE capiz-ed distinguishes the corner of the garden from the rest.

SYLVIA Pascual had boulders and rocks broken up and turned into stone-like tile bench.

ANANTIQUE image of Lord graces the front of the Pascual home.

VIVID blooms contrast dramatically with the bleached wood of the pool lounge area.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

PROMO collaterals from the EDL Corner of the University of Cebu, one of the participants in the Korea Student Fair Fall 2007 held in Seoul

Korean tourism arrivals are driven by the relatively cheap English-language instruction the country offers

Philippines attracts English-eager Koreans

Text and photos by Chesha V. Moral

HANCON Base Elena

HYUNSOOK On

THEY'RE NOT COMING IN JUST FOR the beaches; they're also here for some much sooner on English.

Korea, the Philippines' largest single source of tourists, is now bringing in dozens not just holidaymakers but also students who wish to learn the English language.

Students account for 15-17 percent of Korean tourists to the Philippines, according to the Philippine tourism attaché in Seoul, Medicol Rince Elmes. As of April, 14,400 Korean visitors have arrived here to enroll in language institutions or accommodations around the country.

"They like the Philippines because everybody speaks English. It's easier to learn; they get to practice everywhere," Elmes, who also heads the Department of Tourist Train Korea, said at the recent Korea Student Fair held in Seoul, a biannual event that brings together schools all over the world to attract students who wish to study abroad. The event draws in over 100 exhibitors from the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe and neighboring Asian countries.

Cheaper cost

With the Philippines is not a matter for English-speaking country, the cheaper cost of English-based education here is a major come-on to Koreans, Elmes said.

"Sending a child to the US for one year is equivalent to sending a child for two years in the Philippines...plus the exam," referring to the fact that Korean parents could send their kids to the country to check on their children and enjoy the rights as well.

Hyunsook On, who works with the Philippine tourism office in Seoul, estimated the cost of Korean university education at $4,000 per semester, or roughly four times the tuition for the same period in a state university in Metro Manila.

She added: "The Philippines is relatively cheaper than the US, Canada or England. And it's only 3½ hours away so parents can visit anytime. If they send the child to the US, the parents have to plan their visit."

Most Koreans enroll in "short-term" or two-month English as a Second Language (ESL) course or study for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) here as preparation for further education in another country.

Younger students come in for language camps, typically two-month courses during their summer or winter break. (Philippine travel agents also offer golf and dive camps, where young Koreans athletes learn the sports' lingo in English before they compete abroad.)

New trend

A trend of late has been to put up groups of students in rented homes located in posh gated villages like Ayala Alabang, equipped with usual like facilities such as a swimming pool. A two-month program of this type costs about $2,800 per, and designed to create a good impression of the Philippines, Elmes said.

Angeles City, she added, has also lately been playing host to Korean nurses who wish to undergo retest training before they leave to work in the US or United Kingdom.

Elmes also noted the number of Koreans enrolled in top universities, mainly in IBM programs.

The Philippines has already posted a six-

TO ENTICE: It's efforts to attract Korean students to study in the Philippines, DOT Team Korea will soon take its campaign on a roadshow to Korean schools. Airlines, which give discounts to students visiting the Philippines, say students comprise 15-17 percent of Korean tourists here.

ONCE a tarnished retreat only of vacationing Koreans, Cebu is now also luring Korean students to enroll in its English as a Second Language courses.

THE PHILIPPINE Department of Tourism joins over 100 exhibitors in the Korea Student Fair Fall 2007 at the Convention and Exhibition Center in Seoul.

percent share of the total number of Korean university and graduate students enrolled abroad as of April, or nearly 3,000 more students compared to the previous year.

Oh, said education is highly valued among Koreans. Children as young as 5 years old are sent abroad, both "to study the English language and to experience a different culture." (The International School of Manila and Brent International School are among the top choice of Koreans here, Elmes noted.)

"It's a fact that when you have English [language] skills, you're more competitive, whether you work for Seoul or abroad," Oh added. She herself earned two master's degrees in a US university.

At the Korea Student Fair Fall 2007 in Seoul, nine Philippine ESL schools participated, most of which are located in Cebu.

"You know, most of the parents own or [has put visiting the resorts," Elmes said, "but they didn't stay [here long enough, staying long term for the education of their children.... A Korean Airlines manager was stationed [in the Philippines] for four years. He was to be recalled after his posting, but he opted to retire and stay for the sake of his children's education."

The tourism department's participation in the fair has been quite productive, Elmes said, that she's confident her office would meet its target of 450,000 Korean tourist arrivals by yearend, 113,000 of which she hopes will be students on their winter break. For the first eight months of 2007, 330,000 Koreans visited the Philippines.

"When we participated in the fair for the first time in 2004, we only had two booths without any design, just a nice photo," Elmes recalled.

"Then it became 10 booths. Last spring, we had 20 booths. ... Next we're going on a road show in Korean schools."

Rejuvenating experience

Plantation Bay has just opened the exclusive Bloggerdot Springs Spa. Patterned after a Tokugawa Japanese village, the spa occupies some 3,000 sq m of space for comfortable and luxurious massages. It has several shower rooms and three rooms where guests can check in within the spa premises. Conceptualized and designed by Plantation Bay president Manny Gonzalez, together with architect Ely Lourdes Martinez Orecoses, local materials were used in the spa's construction like treated bamboos, Jamaican flooring and thatched nipa roofs giving it a Filipino character. At Mugambo Springs Spa, guests can look forward to truly relaxing and rejuvenating experience.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Travel books launched

TRAVEL Books for a Cause was launched recently at 23 Central Bookstore Salcedo, The Fort, Taguig City. It features "Wine'n Travel Sketches" by Elisa Lim Yuson, "The Hidden Parian Dip with Bright Purple Spots" by Nikki Sy-Linaco, and "Passport" by Sassi Sta. Ana. The event featured a musical program. Part of the sales will benefit ALIVE Youth Resource Programs, an international non-profit organization that helps poor families. The money will support ALIVE's Christmas programs and activities.

Healthy lifestyle

Camp John Hay in Baguio City offers a dynamic active lifestyle in pleasant surroundings and mild climate. The camp has a total of 250,000 pine trees in a 246-ha forest reserve that keeps the temperature comfortably low. It has a 2 km Eco Trail for those who enjoy walking. The Eco-trail leads right into the heart of the forest, with its pine trees, butterflies and birds. But there is also a fitness gym at the 1.44 Manor Inn for those who want more vigorous physical activities. Other activities include horseback riding, rappelling, and, of course, golfing at the camp's 18-hole course. Call 674-4421/9001 to 09/635/7501, or 8374888. E-mail johnhay@campjohnhay.com.ph or chesbon@campjohnhay.com.ph. Visit www.campjohnhay.com.ph.

HABUHAY GOLD AWARD WINNER

Accent International's country general manager, Arthur Sindac, received this year's Habuhay Gold Award at the 2007 Habuhay Awards. Given by the Association of Human Resources Managers, the award honors outstanding achievement in the hospitality and restaurant industry. Sindac has been in the hotel and restaurant industry for 21 years. He is also in charge of three properties in the Philippines, Somerset Millennium Makati, Somerset Olympia Makati and Somerset Salcedo Makati (http://www.the-somer...com).

PUREBY PERSONAL
Josephine Dayang

Opus Dei recollection in Moscow

AS THE PERSONAL PRELATURE of Opus Dei prepares to celebrate its 25th year on Nov. 26, Mary Elizabeth Rogers, cooperator in Moscow, Russia, reported that the first ladies' recollection was held in that city in August.

Superintendent Dr. Ms. Teresa of Spain and Gabi Gauna Maria of Chile supervised the recollection. The wife of a Spanish ambassador, Dr. Teresa has been a supernumerary for 35 years.

Elizabeth is married to Roberto Ridgway, operations chief of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICF) in Moscow. The only Filipino participant, she became cooperator in 1993.

Moscow has two Opus Dei priests, Fr. Fernando Vera and Father Javier Mo.

In Moscow, Elizabeth attends Mass every day because her apartment is only a 20-minutes walk from the church. The city has only two Catholic churches—St. Louis and the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Cathedral.

OPUS DEI in Moscow: Mary Elizabeth Rogers (second from right) with participants in the first recollection in Moscow

"This life is short. Let's make good use of it." He means we could fill our lives with God by sanctifying work.

The late Don Alvaro Portillo became the first prelate of Opus Dei. The name of his beatification is being studied. Those wanting to get his prayer card can write to me c/o the PDI. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Eucharistic Adorers' congress

The Eucharistic Adorers League headed by Mona Lacanilao and the Pink Sisters are holding the 20th Eucharistic Congress on Dec. 1, 7 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Adoration Convent, 77 Hemady St. corner 8th St., New Manila. Theme is "Reflection on the Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father: Sacramentum Caritatis."

Speakers and topics are: Fr. Apolonio Tiu, SDS, "The Eucharist, a mystery to be celebrated;" Fr. Linus Nicasio, SVD, "The Eucharist, a mystery to be believed;" and Bishop Pablo Isreal, SDS, "The Eucharist, a mystery to be lived."

Prayers, reflections and songs will be led by Fr. Raul Caga, SVD. Bishop Pablo David will preside at the noon-time Mass. Registration starts 7 a.m.

Concert

Tonight Nov. 4 was a concert day in Tagaytay City, the Cote-de-Jon Jurisic, director Dr. Ricardo C. Aquino, and the St. Paul University Philippines Chorale, directed by Sr. Corazon Quevedo, SPC, held a concert to mark two events: the culmination of the year of jubilees of Archbishop Deodulo Talamayan and the centenary of the St. Paul of Chartres sisters in the archdiocese of Tagaytay. Accompanying the choirs was the Saint Louis University of Baguio Vienna Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Prof. Hermenegildo Ramos. Sr. Quevedo, played the piano, alternating with Fr. Ramos, for some numbers.

Alicia Jacinto, a graduating student of UST's Conservatory of Music, captured the heart of the audience.

The orchestra was deftly conducted by the incomparable Ramos. Many songs were arranged for orchestral accompaniment by Prof. Ramos and Dean Bonifacio Maranan, CSB, pianist and UST music professor.

Fr. Aquino premiered the orchestral rendition of Ikaw sa Buhangin, arranged by Fr. Maranan.

As the choir sang "Gaano Ka Ikaw Kaindak", the lights went off but choir and orchestra finished the number. The loud audience gave a thunderous applause.

Archbishop Talamayan gamely did rare numbers: the "Impossible Dream," his favorite, and "I Believe," drawing thunderous applause.

Cardinal Rosales welcomed

The Gabriela de la Inmaculada Concepcion welcomed Vaticano Cardinal Rosales in the house of Feminist Ibarda Cojuangco.

The group presented a donation of 1P1 million for the cardinal's "village for the poor" in Pinas City.

Among those present were Bary Hammadi, president; Rene Lesaca, Fe Rodriguez, and Helen Ong, members of the service department organizing the procession on Dec. 2, 4 p.m., in Intramuros like Ada Estudillo, Danny Bolor, Miss Fergie, Oberly Arevalo and Clifford Ong, and 2007 honorees Mayeta Ibiza Lopez and Josefina Tiongson.

Fiesta

A holistic and wellness day will be held Nov. 20 at the Sitio Jireh Japeth Educational Institute, Upang, Labrador, Pangasinan. Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. by Fr. Dennis and Fr. Sherley. Sitio Xavier is clear. Call (075) 549-5265 or (mobile #373) 549-7283.

Fiesta

Fiesta Mamse will be held 5 a.m., 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. for the Virgen de las Remedios in Balot, San Fernando, Pampanga with Fr. Mar Miranda as celebrant. Bishop Roberto Mollari of Dolores at the 5 p.m. concelebrated Mass with Fr. Alfred David, parish priest, and others.

Fr. Ric Robles celebrates at 10 a.m., today 20 years as a priest at the Divine Mercy Shrine in Sta. Rosa, Malolos, Bulacan.

CARDINAL Rosales with Cubcubs officers Helen Ong and Danny Dolor at Imelda Cojuangco's residence

ENTERTAINMENT

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WILLIE Hopkinsons

TESSIE Tomas

FLORIE Domingo

HANETTE Inventor

CANDY Pangilinan

ADORACION Pastora

INSIDE

- **Liar, liar– gotcha!** Rushes /H4
- **Ruffa says Regal film is 'really for me'** Take Five /H4
- **Another film on Edith Piaf** /H5
- **The 'package'** Only in Hollywood /I1

UP brand of humor showcased

IS THERE A SHARE OF HUMOR TRACEable to the Wala University?

Comic artists from the UP alumni ranks—led by Willie Hopkinsons, Tessie Tomas, Kamagong frontman Frederick Pacifico, Candy Pangilinan, Eugene Domingo and Bj Francisco—take center stage for "Genio Comico, 100 Years of Fun and Laughter," an evening extravaganza that kicks off the university's year-long centennial celebration.

"Genio Comico" is being mounted by the UP Alumni Association, and starts at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17, at the UP Theater in Diliman.

Filmmaker Marjoe de los Reyes, a UP Mass Communications graduate himself, says that gathering all these busy comedians "is a tall order."

"But they are all committed to this project because they want to jump-start UP's centennial year with a bang," he says.

That these practitioners agreed to be part of the show is a "matter of generosity and compassion," De los Reyes jokes.

He says that apart from featuring the veteran comedians who graduated from the State University, the show will also showcase fresh voices who've made the annual "Live AKO" seasonal revue such a runaway success.

Tickets are available at popular prices. For details, contact the UPAA secretariat at 920-0875 or 920-0960 or e-mail upalumni@yahoo.com.ph.

C/S, ETC, 2nd Avenue on free TV

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SOLAR ENTERTAINMENT BARGED in new channel lineup at the fellowship Congress to Feddie on Thursday.

According to Solar head William Tieng, his company has formed an "alliance" with free free TV channels, both on the VHF and UHF bands—RPN 9, IBC, BJ TV and ABC 5. The new partnerships resulted from the impending termination of Solar channels in Home and SkyCable, Tieng said.

In an official statement, Jose Clemente, SkyCable vice president for programming, said: "With the entry of our three new channels (Balls, Blazes and Velvet), SkyCable will no longer carry [Solar channels] Basketball TV (BTV), Solar Sports, ETC, 2nd Avenue, Jack TV and Crime Suspense."

Forwarding

Clemente said the move is continued on "strengthen and streamline [SkyCable's] programming mix." After all, he noted, "some of the more prominent programs on [Solar] channels may still be found on free TV or SkyCable's other channels such as Star World and AXN."

Tieng said that moving to free TV would solve her company's problems, including "bad signal in our old cable companies."

He said C/S programs will be seen on RPN 9, ETC shows on IBC and 2nd Avenue series on BJ TV "24 hours a day, 7 days a week, starting Jan. 1, 2008."

Ramon Jacinto, head of BJ TV, told Inquirer Entertainments that his regular shows—"Thank God It's BJ" and "BJ Online"—would be retained in their weekend time slots.

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NOKIA Nseries

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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
ENCHANTED 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00
BECOWLD 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
HITMAN 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
ONE MORE CHANCE 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
PREMIERE THEATRE
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Trinoma Cinema 1 Cinema 2 Cinema 3 Cinema 4
Festival Supermall Cinema 1 Cinema 2 Cinema 3 Cinema 4
Gateway Cinema 1 Cinema 2 Cinema 3 Cinema 4
Ayala Center Cebu Cinema 1 Cinema 2 Cinema 3 Cinema 4
Ayala Center Cebu Cinema 5 Cinema 6 Cinema 7 Cinema 8
Pacific Mall Cinema 1 Cinema 2 Cinema 3 Cinema 4
Filinvest Festival Supermall Cinema 1 Cinema 2 Cinema 3 Cinema 4
Gateway Cinema 5 Cinema 6 Cinema 7 Cinema 8
Blue Wave Cinema 1 Cinema 2 Cinema 3 Cinema 4
Super Cinemas Cinema 1 Cinema 2 Cinema 3 Cinema 4
Cinema 1 Cinema 2 Cinema 3 Cinema 4
Cinema 1 Cinema 2 Cinema 3 Cinema 4
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Enchanting–and lots of spoofy fun, too

THE CURIOUST FILM "ENCHANTED" lives up to its title, delighting viewers with its whimsical yet fascinating story about fairytale characters who inspire cutest moments. But New Yorkers re-dream and love again, and are in turn taught to stop living exclusively in their crisp-happily-herea-meaning-unless world.

In protagonist is Giselle (Amy Adams), a cartoon figure who dreams of living magic off her feet by a fairytale prince. Sir (James Marsden) does honor into view, but his evil stepsister shoots the monster by pushing Giselle into a dog-well.

After her sentence ordeal, she resurfaces on Times Square, of all places, and is instantly caught up in the movie's hectic pace—the very antithesis of her idealistic and escapist mind-set.

When the prince follows Giselle to New York City to rescue her, he finds that she's fallen for a handsome divorce lawyer (Patrick Dempsey). Then, the film becomes a tug of war between real and fairytale home, and Giselle finds herself changing in many significant ways.

Hints for the lawyer, who is inspired by Giselle to believe again in the beauty and power of love.

To further spice up the brew, the evil queen (Susan Sarandon) and her henchman (Steve Rosen), curb and Mona Hester Landscaping the romance to the hilt.

When the usual research unleashes her evasive powers, the movie's visuals take a quantum leap forward to include animated sidekicks (King Bengt?), with the queen transmogrifying herself into a gigantic dragon that scales up to the top of the Empire State Building in the movie's big, long denouement.

Some viewers may find the all-out finale too over the top, but we think it's more tongue-in-cheek than anything else, and quite in keeping with the production's overall humanizing tone.

The film's weak points include its relatively dreary handling of secondary characters like the queen's henchman and Giselle's chipmunk-sidekick, that the trade' lovely and fictional personals more than make up for these lapses, with bemusing, hilarious and harmless winning-way cuddle for their on-target work.

Sarandon, in particular, relishes her adorably evil characters and her performance is hoadly pleasinmagnet in effect.

For his part, Marsden makes his prince both clueless and earnestly self-absorbed, eliciting laughs with his self-disparaging portrayal.

As for Adams and Dempsey, they keep clashing between fantasy and reality for repair their believability of the roles.

Other strengths include the deft and droll way that the classic spoofs old fairytale sources features' dismay conventions, like singing birds and cute mice helping the fantasy female lead dress up and dream the house.

In the movie's speed version, the birds are mangy-ity pigeons and the mice have become actually rats—and flies and cockroaches are thrown in for good measure! What why fun—and so much for insanely romantic movies!

Feedback

From Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay: "Congratulations on winning the award for Best Entertainment Column at the 29th Catholic Mass Media Awards.

"I am glad that your column 'Viewfinder' provides readers with a breath of fresh air. In addition, you provide entertainment to people who live hectic lives."

* * *

From Marnie Soares of Quezon City: "Congratulations on your CMMA award. We are helping many people to appreciate quality entertainment and the arts, as well as reminding people in show business to always keep the viewing public's welfare in mind..."

VIEWFINDER

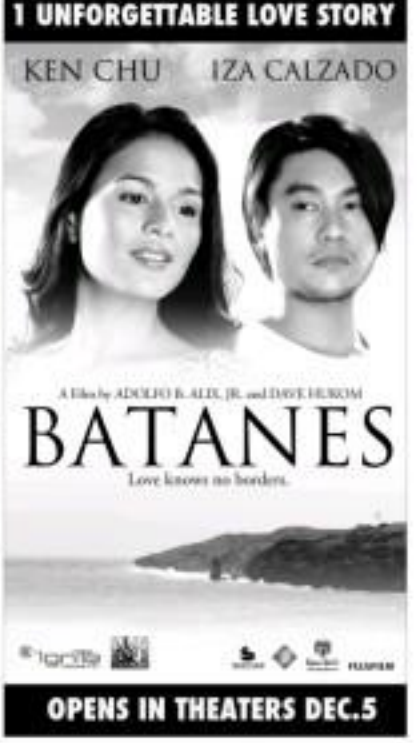
Nestor U. Torre

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD By Frank A. Longo

BY LOMGMOUS

answer on page F2



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HBO

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby
Dec. 30, 8pm
HBO

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Ruffa: This film is really for me

By Marinel R. Cruz

ONCE THREE MONTHS AGO, SHE WAS reported to be packing things up with Turkish husband Yilmaz Bektas, with whom she had a prolonged and very public spat earlier this year.

Now Ruffa Gutierrez seems to have calmed cold again, referring to Yilmaz as just "the father of my kids."

She said this was because she recently reunited as e-mail from him, asking to be called exactly that. "Gusto ko naman ayang pagkapasok, 'Ha, nakuwestid entertainment nanaman ako.' Sabi ko, 'I don't wanna know. Hindi ako interesado.' Pero pag tiningnan ko ang e-mail, 'Ruffa Mae Quinto, Ina Calzado and Marian Rivera.

However, Ruffa said Yilmaz—father of Lorin, 4, and Venice, 3—was welcome to celebrate Christmas with them here. He is currently based in Turkey, Ruffa explained, "The girls still need him. And now we think before [Ang] 15 years old, he's just got me [on account of my] even more love."

Immediately after the holidays, Ruffa will start work on "My Monster Mom," where she co-stars with her real-life mother Annabelle Rivera. Ruffa says her scene on the big screen in the meantime, Miss "Hatid" (1998), opposite Christopher de Leon.

Ruffa said "Desperados" was hatched during her birthday party last year. The plan was for her to shoot shelter hitting with favorites Ina Raymundo, Dawn Zulueta and Gina Alajar.

"I'm sure you all know what happened. Had the movie pushed through with the original cast, baka hindi kami umabot sa this time," Ruffa admitted. "I think this movie is really for me ... more so much for my three friends, [though] I'll still like to work with them one day."

Among your co-stars, who is the closest to you?

"It's like! I found three new sisters. Nobody gave me problems. Walang nagtataray sa akin.

"I've been friends with Bella Shmr for a long time. We first worked together in my movie "Pinakamagandang Barong sa Balat ng Gapas." Dito pa lang, I'm sick. I admire her because she really paid her dues as an actress. Ang sipag ng tao, she's determined sa desisyon ng buhay. Ang sana ma-achieve niya."

As is one of the most tried-hearted persons I know. She insists on calling me ate, even though I don't look like one eh.

Marian is misunderstood. Many people say she's become contented. I think she's just tired because she's very busy. She was never mean-girl to me. The other night she came up to me and hugged me.

So has a steady boyfriend. Would you say that the cost of your girls are desperate for love?

I was desperately in need of love when I was in limited because I missed my family. If you ask me now ... 'di, my ex-boyfriend Lotlot and Venice are here to fill that need in my heart.

I don't think desperate is a negative word. I think every one has become desperate at one point in life. The most important thing is that you learn from experience. So I can say that, yes, I've been desperate [but] satisfied na ako ngayon.

You've the only ABS-CBN talent in the main cast. Are you allowed to promote this movie on GMA 7?

I have an exclusive contract with ABS-CBN. Even if I were co-promote on GMA—you know I don't want to get involved in the network wars. I have to honor my contract. I have to. Eh, love whatever the house say.

How similar is your character to your real self?

My look love to shop for clothes. As a media, we're similar in the sense that we're both actor. Kapag nakita ang emak, nasa instagram. I really understand how my mom felt about me when I was a teenager.

Her new tag for husband Yilmaz Bektas: 'Father of my kids'

There is a scene in the movie where **your character's daughter asks about the kinds** and the beat. Are you yourself prepared for **when Lorin tells you she has a crush on someone?**

I guess it will depend on how old she is [when this happens]. I hope she doesn't ask when she's just 5. I might faint. When she's 15, I say to fresh with her. Those things are inevitable school nowadays, anyway.

Wasn't your mom supposed to be in this movie?

Yes, but Regal couldn't afford her rate. Sina Sosa Villa explained her. What you don't know about me now is that naga-praise na ko kay Sen. We still do a commercial one year or parang gusto pa nito akong tanggalan ng mukha.

RUFFA Gutierrez at the press conference for Regal's "Desperados," her first movie since 1998.

ANGELINA de la Cruz

Well, that's exactly the time she moves to her new song.

Unfunny comedy

Mexican producer wants a reporter to strip on cue—or anywhere else? Or maybe not. That's already in the past.

Network execs reinvented the molten-and-tested the flick "sex, funny and, therefore...viewership," leaving the producer heartbroken.

Mari Mar muddled

At the US Embassy, where she applied for a visa recently. For an upcoming "Mari Mar" road show in Las Vegas, Mariam Rivera was reportedly mobbed by both local and foreign employees.

Shanghai Hilton

SHANGHAI, CHINA—American actress Hilary Swank and husband Chad Lowe, her fiancé, cuddled stuffed pandas and announced during the famous snowboard brand on Thursday while visiting China's most style-conscious city for the MTV Style awards.

"Shanghai looks like the future!" Hilton said in a news conference. AP

Overdose by mistake

LOS ANGELES—The two-week old twins of actor Dennis Quaid were rearranging by Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Wednesday after mistakenly being given a massive overdose of a blood thinning drug.

The Quaid twins, Thomas Boone and Zoe Grace, were born since surrogate mother on Sept. 26. Reuters

* * *

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories to feed addicts this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Going, going...

• Uncle Kuriketa bids show biz goodbye.

• Angelika de la Cruz, take us to any pagkpot sa Ilayon.

• Angelika, seeking greener hotel rooms pastures ng hotspot?

• Joseph Bilangel, kumpon sa Ilo pantalya, di nakapagbitang ng premyo.

• Ana Mina, Celeline Reyes (not ABS-CBN na sa 2008)?

• Jeanelyn Mercado, mugto. Jagpatoloy.

• Andoy, hinod mag-publicity ng 20th Film. Ruffa hosted mag-plug sa Ilayon.

Bigger showdown

• Andi Santamaria, mas kumpot-dap at nacongang Ben Aurora kapasikay sa audition. Ikinot!

• Anyaking magkapot na PBBPC?

• Atty. Lorenzo, gabi na gulo kay Lolit Solis? Dinadamay daw kasi sa demanda nyo Pinky at Sam! (The prospect of this showdown is stupefying.)

• Ai Ai delas Alas, nabog ni Richard Gutierrez? Kailan, papit sa pambahay? Papit pa pic jam.)

• Glaiza Herrera, Kenneth Medrano parehong bumis.

• Claudia Finnet, maliliong bata nakgot (Baka kapot?)

• Bangus, mga kinukuhanan ng ilang OFW sa Hong Kong. (Ew!!)

• John Prats, nagsasabing nasinktan? • Rhaniel, nawa pwden pagsawa. (For Shaina—this is serious.)

Wish ko lang

•Lorna T longs for an international award.

• Annie Gorlin gaining realization gift ng Ben Aurora-supply (Kumusta Ate Annie?)

• Yasmien Kurdi hanahanap along kay Marked Ivahnen. (Kasay.)

• Vicky Morales nanagmit na sabay si Lolit Solis Shaina.

• Vina Morales nanakbuhos sa taping ng 'Kung Ako Siya'

Heartbreak

EVA VON TEESE...American companion artiste, during a phone call to promote her new book "Burlesque and the Art of Teese"

MAMETTE (Redred)

GLADYS Reyes

• Jobelle M as dalire ng isang nakatire.

• Bilyar M nagbibiruskey as Imic.

• Popular na Mindanao kitsa ngot ano M gudong magmat kel sa mga pino!

• Shaneen, of edemanda nan si Cindy Bautista? (Imidalan daw kan ng GMA 7?

• Cindy, gabidalangin si Manny: 'di ko kaya ang kalwa cha lah na ano.

• Jo Berry na Bhel, Pangasan M nanan gano ni Cindy.

What a mess

• Carlene Aguilar sayo ano ni public apology?

• Dabid kaya kwal kay Brenda Castillo kinaing na kabit si Cristine.

• Ummi' family apologizes to Cristine.

• Ate ginamting mag MU ina Ermats ni Cristine.

• Dennis, di pwedeng ipa-ol Cristine — ina.

• Ate Vhi tahot to not a home wrecker? Di the tradition of Ate Guy: "My brother is not ugag!")

• Ina Montelaro ni Cristine sa abroad. (Ma ang bugaw!?)

• Ermats ni Carlene, pambing nong si Cristine.

• Cristine, ang pala-gala! (Agnes Espina wild!)

• Ermats, may alowong malupit kaya nakabalik sina Carlene at Cristine. (Hy, don't go there.)

• Cristine, pinagpapantayan ni Kris Aquinoon! (Ang gala nga.)

Turning tables

• Umamaling Pinky Aurora kalit, show ba ito sa show biz?

• Umanggang si Pinky!...Lolit

• Feeling ko, upang ayaw ako."—Lolit

• Lolit Sling nanantsambagan against Pinky and Imic.

• Manny Lolit pamamanggan ang bagay ng demanda nina Imic at Pinky."—Lolit

• Sling nakgang ipinkinda ana Aurora Pinky sa Kuwento ko, walling akong nakipag-usap sa kanila at nag-sorry ak."—Lolit

Happy and gay

• Barbara happy sa nagging feeling!

• Gustavo manwang kasama sa kabadugan.

• Several si KCbird makanos. (Di pasensiyahin Mogul!)

• Mel Tiangco nanantsaya na ang kasal sa Dos.

• Nghanagi sa Dos, baka kontrary si Mel.

Nic, thanks

• Robin Padilla ninanggabi sa

Cristine Reyes
• Sana Hindi pinalitan ang mga tinatawag si Cristine bilang kontrabida sa Bubble.
• Set up La Mendoza, nanamalat
• Jeanelyn Mercado, feliz ma ng kabuhol. Agbasa? Tahot na

nilet si ngaw nong ngaw!
• Maxene Magalona bumid sa her friend Pebs Ina yan, Richard Gutierrez!
• Ate Calzado Dantaong nakipag love some ng bagabong show
• Ehen "nipot" Swim. (Ulan matulo.)
• Francine Prieto ayaw ng nanong paint.
• Ading Ybong Navarro-Janelle Aunor, dikwap si Denise del Bello.
• Angel Locsin, dapat si Rachel Buchanan si "PROUD"! (Sana'wan lang!)
• Manager or Angel, feeling ako.

Plastic society

• Bada Mae Quinto no comment with Deniele Stille. "Malapit ka yan."
• Bella Mae, antipatiko ngo Cadenal
• Ai Ai nakabiba ai nanan si Bada Mae.
• "Cadenal ang kwi, nanay mo ito."—Bella Mae
• "Di kumplan ang bahay ko!"...Bella Jaurino (Echoing the sentiments of all Filipinos.)
• Pops of Ara magbabalik as Star Awards for TV.
• Andoy, nakakinang ang pinsang aming album. (Kanta mo.)
• Karylle, Aug 8 [illegible] ni Deniele Padilla. (I [illegible] Manjaro Sunrise ang libro ng pumalaon.
• Kris, nagsasalo si Bada.

JOSEPH Bilangel

Choices, loyalties

• Manny Pacquiao, nahihipo day Ara.
• Atty. Manny si Kyel to Jolens.
• Valerie Concepcion bagong yaon si Manny!
• Child custody drakonesko si Sofia sa dispute. (Ayaw na naman.)
• Sunday noodles ang pagpapakilig bodoy pero nagpapapuyos ng tabo si Imee.
• Kumpare kay Richard Gutierrez, Dhon Kanon mag-ipin a Mark Pereira.
• Dole, Ilyan Aguinaldo nagkalat si kanyang!

The tragic sense of life

By Constantine C. Tejera

TRAGIC WASTE IS THE CORE of the tragedies. A sense of great lives, of what could have been, is at the heart of tales that recur through the centuries.

We know what happened to these people, we're familiar with their stories, but we don't get tired of listening or watching—from Oedipus and Hecuba evolving into Hamlet, from Romeo and Juliet to their latest reincarnation in backdoors, alleys and tenements.

A counterpoint to the ancient tragedies is the Desmond Cokefairy biopic, the list of titles never growing or that it ever could have a film subgenre. (Is this symptomatic of the age?)

The story is invariably about geniuses and/or artists injured in the bud, among them Judy Garland, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Modigliani, Monroe, James Dean, Jim Lennon, Elvis Presley, Amy Winehouse, Sam Sophia, Tim Hardin, Frida Kahlo...extraordinary personalities undone in their prime by either a tragic flaw in their character or a modern equivalent of fate.

Great Emotionalist

Among Russian Bad Great Entertainers, Edith Piaf, the legendary French singer who died at 47 in 1963, has life story proven to be one of the most unmistakable recent materials for both film and theater, quite possible because it is one of the most tragic on the classic scale.

In 1974, Guy Casaril released "Et ...ô—The Early Years" (a.k.a. "The Ignorant of Pigalle"). In 1981, Howard Davies came up with "Piaf," featuring the acclaimed performances of Jane Lapotaire.

Claude Lelouch ("Vivre Pour Vivre") and himself forward on her love affair with the married Marcel Cerdan, Europe's welterweight champ who died in a plane crash in 1949. The film entered the noir.

Now comes Olivier Dahan's version, "La Môme" (a.k.a. "Not We on Rose," or "The Passionate Life of Edith Piaf"), starring Marion Cotillard, which opened this year's Deauville international Film Festival.

It was premiered in the country in August at Cinemanila and screened again last month at Cine Europa. This one would seem like a summation of all previous Piaf biopics.

Fragmented story

Born 12th Governor Gouvon in 1915, she was a small bad creature, does the upbeat Le Môme Piaf, or The Little Sparrow. She was only 4'8", with a headlike body and a feminish face, but with a loud, clear voice.

Abandoned as a child by her mother Aneeta (played by Clotilde Courau), she spent the happiest days of her childhood in a brothel run by her paternal grandmother, where she was raised by prostitutes.

Her first major heartache occurred when she was forcibly taken away by her father (Gerard Depardieu), separating her from her surrogate mothers, to live with him in the wrenching circus where he was a contortionist.

From being a stubbornly-owned girl in the circus, she soon evolved into a singer on the streets of Paris with her pal Mômeme (Sylvie Testud).

Piaf started singing at 9 and professionally at 15. At only 20 Piaf, people asked her long, gooey personages like the nightclub impresario Louis Leplée (Gérard Depardieu); the poet-musician Raymond Asso (Marc Barbé); the long-suffering talent manager Louis Barrier (Jacques Boudet); Tonyguy's—who guided her to the top.

HARRISON/Cecilia Dalya—Edith Darrieux Dances in "La Plume."

The film traces her phenomenal rise from street to cabaret to music hall, leaving us the startled wealth of Charles Aznavour and Yves Montand, until her tumultuous encounter on both sides of the Atlantic. She was a supporter of the French Resistance, and the discoverer of Yves Montand, who became her lover.

But, as everyone knows, the gods are jealous of the fortune of mortals. And so every effort—no matter how valiant or successful—is doomed to failure.

Stephen Bowles—Piaf's parental abandonment and the threat of blindness, in alcoholism, car accident, morphine addiction and rheumatism, to the loss of a beloved father figure, her own neglected child, and the love of her life.

Predictably to underscore a theatre life and some really messy affairs, Dahan wields a frenetic camera work and choppy editing. We can take fragmentary narrative, which French film has been specialising in since the heyday of Godard, but here the scenes aren't just fragmented, they're virtually stained.

Emotional pitch

Even before the viewer has finished sniffing over the distress on screen, or finds time to process the idea or relish the emotion, the scene rapidly changes from the present to childhood to flash-forward, so that almost every sequence feels like some interruption.

Add to this the hot-shot's obsessive characters, plus her capricious behavior and loud tantrums, and none of the scenes sound dialed, indeed.

But there are quiet, potent scenes: 1-year-old Edith (Manon Chevallier) with prostitute Titine (a heavily deglamorized Emmanuelle Seigner) voicing the theme of In Thérèse of the Child Jesus of Lisieux, to pray for her recovery from her anxiety; her first duet with Cerdan (Jean-Pierre Martinet in a Marcantonio deal), narrating Madame Dimnis (Caroline Silhol) to Hymn Body Child.

Certainly the film's highlights is the episode when she receives news of Cerdan's death. It is a hallucinatory sequence done in one long elegant take, the camera following her as she runs from bedroom to living room through hallway and out to the concert stage and home into "Hymn to Love."

In "Piaf," Lafaurie does a more conventional but no less powerful rendition of this episode in which, after she has received the news, the scene segues into her onstage as she sings "La Vie en Rose," suggests and collapses like a bird with a broken wing.

Cotillard's performances, for sure, is definitive. Her stage, from the vibrant adolescent Edith to the prematurely dying Piaf, is frankly astonishing.

In the film's last sequence, the camera changes focus but does not shift to a flashback of her as a child on a hand-me-down dress of her singing "No, I Regret Nothing," her devastated face in the spotlight, a white magic mask evoking wasteland.

There, in a moment of calm acceptance and fatal resolve, in the first minutes, she seems to apprehend it in progress.

Aretha reveals one career frustration

...even as she releases new CD, 'All-Star Duets with the Queen'

NEW YORK—ARETHA Franklin sessions working with greats like Frank Sinatra, Luther Vandross and Whitney Houston—her latest CD will such accolades, you might think she was discussing his troubles.

It's not for lack of interest—the Queen of Soul calls "Friends of the Queen: All-Star Duets With The Queen," a "brilliant" album.

It's not that, while there were two performances, the legend rarely brings much enthusiasm to interviews.

Still, she was get animated, and when the door, it's a surprising and refreshing change. Here are Hollywood. Though Franklin had hit pain in the "Blues Brothers" movies and is trying to put together her own biopic, she wishes that she had had a larger presence in that medium.

Color barrier

"I have not gotten the offers from Hollywood that I would have liked to have gotten," Franklin, 56, said during a recent phone interview with The News-Journal Press. "I don't understand why it's so hard for long-time artists in the music industry who have numerous awards and citations and things like that to even get a glimpse of an offer from Hollywood. What is the problem?"

Franklin believes the answer is color barrier. And she notes that many of her peers have fallen victim to the same problem.

"Other celebrated women like Tina [Turner], Diana [Ross], Gladys [Gladys] and Barbara Hack ... people like that, they haven't offered anything either. It's just so unfair."

Franklin doesn't believe it's getting any better for black entertainers, despite recent Oscar wins by the likes of Halle Berry and Jennifer Hudson.

"It's a little disappointing to see in 2007 that that kind of thing still happens, and you've got a dozen or so deserving people there," she says. "Halle Berry is only one person —please!"

TV series

Franklin says opportunities in Hollywood for blacks came only when they create opportunities for themselves. To that end, she's working with producers to create a film about her own life, in which she'd like to see Berry do duets, or even musical roles in a musical on the order of "The Color Purple." Franklin is in talks with a network to do a four-part series. A play is also in the works.

For her focus remains music. Though she has been working on an album of new material for years titled, Aretha Records, she decided to release "Greats of the Genre" at the urging of record mogul Clive Davis, who produced the record. It has some tracks on it, including a duet with John Legend and another with Fantasia. But mostly it's previous collaborations with some of pop's greatest voices.

Luther Vandross is one of the luminaries featured on "The Queen's Orders." For Franklin, hearing the duet with Vandross, who died two years ago, "brought back every very pleasant, fun, and of course sad memories."

Franklin recalls Vandross' talent in the best mood when she entered the studio.

"That one we got down and we recorded the tracking and [singing] ... Luther could really touch you up—he was back to his old self," she says. "He just put it down."

Houston, who has known Franklin for a lifetime, had a more difficult time on the song "I Look to You," a Whitney Houston Grammy hit.

"She had a lot of a problem [with] some of the dialogue where it was supposed to be a kind of a put-down, and a dig to me," says Franklin. "I suggested that just put it in little bit of its actions for it, because of her respect for me, that she got through it."

Franklin says that, of all the duets, her song with Houston may have been the most memorable.

But Franklin is also pleased that she makes herself here on set, follow Houston across and legends Stevie Wonder and Smokey Robinson. She has done concerts with them, but has never recorded with either.

Franklin hopes that changes: "We should do a whole album together." Nakasa Woods/Mood, AP

ARETHA: Royal ingredients never made it to Hollywood.

SAY: Is thinking Jennifer Hudson could portray her love is a biopic.

Spin

Roundup

Billboard's top 10

THIS IS THE LIST OF THE HOT selling recorded music in the United States as it appears in next week's issue of Billboard magazine, compiled from a statistical sample of sales reports provided by retailers, rackjobbers and one-stop merchants tracked by Broadcast Data Systems.

1) "Be Don," Alicia Keys (J/RMG).

2) "Rain Kiss," Chris Brown Featuring T-Pain (Jive/Zomba).

3) "Apologize," Timbaland Featuring OneRepublic (Mosley/Blackground/Interscope).

4) "Low," Flo Rida Featuring T-Pain (Poe Boy/Atlantic).

5) "Bleeding," Colbie Caillat (Universal Republic).

6) "Grab That Cookie Baby," Jordin Sparks (19/Arista).

7) "Good Life," Kanye West Featuring T-Pain (Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam/IDJMG).

8) "Chasing," Fergie (will.i.am/A&M/Interscope).

9) "Applause," Lady Gaga Featuring T-Pain (Kon Live/KIDZ).

10) "Stronger," Kanye West (Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam/IDJMG).

AP

ALICIA Keys

Row over Crosby exhibit

RENO, Nevada (AP) — Thirty years after the death of singer Bing Crosby, angry family members and friends are accusing Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum of disrespecting his legacy by disorderly selling back to Crosby exhibit.

Crosby's sons, Carolyn Edwardes, said the museum had the second largest public Crosby memorabilia collection in the US until it was auctioned. One part remains, Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, has the largest.

BING Crosby

While the museum's widow Kathryn did not wish to publicly comment, she privately expressed disappointment over the action, Edwardes said.

"To take that away from him is very unfair. It diminishes his show business career and importance to Elko and Elko County," said Sebastian, author of "Me and Uncle Bing."

Bobbi Wilson, president of the Bing's Friends and Collectors Society, said the museum's move was troubling. "Did you see a ring in the face to Crosby? Isn't all over the world."

Museum Director Claudia Wiser acknowledges Crosby's contributions to the singing and marching town about 300 miles east of Reno. But she said the museum's mission is to feature items from the region, and she won't reconsider the decision to only show memorabilia from Crosby's Elko days.

Crosby was a popular entertainer of the 20th century—on stage, radio, movies and television. His recording of "White Christmas" was the decades the biggest selling single of all time. He won the 1944 Best Actor academy Award for "Going My Way."

Crosby died at 74 on a golf course in Spain in October 1977. AP

Maria Clara image

Is Maria Clara dead?

Tonight, Sharon Cuneta discusses the perceived issue between the two stars and their relationship with each other in "Sharon" on ABS-CBN.

Three female celebrities—Ann Agoncillo, Julianne Palomino and Mimmaaden Bonet—give insights on whether the Maria Clara image of Filipinas still prevails in present history and ideals.

DINGDONG Dantes

Sergio fans day

"Marilyn" make head Bing during Sharon, who plays Spanish Superbands Sergio, will hold a grand fans' day today at SM Fairview.

This opportunity to meet and greet Dingdong will have a live telecast on GMA 7's "Showbiz Central."

Dingdo fans are invited to head toward the new SM mall this afternoon.

'Alvin and the Chipmunks'

"ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS" CODS TO the big screen in a story which charts their meteoric rise from cheeky animals to international singing superstars.

The fictional musical tale was created in the '50s by the late Ross Bagdasarian Sr. when he stumbled on a unique sound while experimenting with a tape recorder.

Ross Bagdasarian Jr. and his wife Janice Karman have kept the franchise alive and are producing the new movie starring Jason Lee for Twentieth Century Fox, which opens in local theaters in January.

The movie focuses on aspiring songwriter Dave Seville (Jason Lee), who, together with The Chipmunks, finds a new lease on life as they team up to write and perform songs.

Why did you revive "Alvin and the Chipmunks"?

I was just getting out of law school and my dad had unfortunately passed away at 52 years old. I didn't want The Chipmunks to past away prematurely with him.

SIMON, Alvin and Theodore Chipmunk, with creator Ross Bagdasarian, Sr.

KID FIT

Who chipmunks?

He was trying to decide whether they'd be chipmunks or aardvarks or flying saucers or whatevers. One day he was driving his car through Yosemite National Park and a song hit. He allegedly jumped out onto the road. He was entranced by the audacity of that tiny thing standing in the way of the road. The names came from record executives rap dad know—Alvin, Simon and Theodore. The song came out in 1958 and became the fastest selling song in the history of music in that time.

The huge success of The Chipmunks must have changed everything for your dad and the family.

It did. Before Chipmunks, we just had $200 to our name. And when I say our name, I mean my dad, my mom and the three children with a mortgage to pay. My dad, being an incredibly crazy, funny, "take-a-chance" kind of guy took $190 of the $200 and spent it on the latest state of the art tape recorder that allowed him to multi-track. The Chipmunks changed our lives because we suddenly had money and got a swimming pool which was great because it was really hot where we lived.

Who are The Chipmunks and what are they like?

Alvin has a lot of bravado and lives in, he is impetuous. Simon is the studious one with glasses who's got that kind of shy wit. Theodore is the gullible, naive baby who's the most in need of love and support.

'Bindi: The Jungle Girl'

Starring Ivy, 5, Bindi Irwin, nine-year-old daughter of the Crocodile Hunter Steve and Terri Irwin, will be known as "Bindi: The Jungle Girl" in her new wildlife series on Animal Planet airing weekdays, 6 to 6:30 p.m., with replays on Saturdays, 4 p.m.

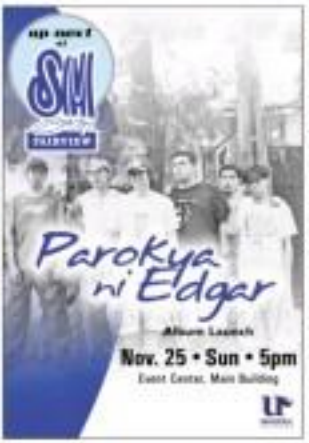
BINDI Irwin

From her perch in a two-story high tree house in the jungle, Bindi introduces viewers to her wonderful world of wildlife.

Pyro musical shows

Pyro musical shows continue to be on attractions at the SM Mall of Asia every Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.

Different fireworks display is showcased every week accompanied by happy and dancable music.



ENTERTAINMENT

Seal laughs off Heidi's 'package' comment

ALL ABOUT IT packaging: Heidi Klum saw Seal in shorts and was impressed.

LOS ANGELES—WHILE WAITing for our turn to interview Seal at a hotel villa, a baby crawled near our feet. As we said "hi" to the boy, a woman in jeans, sans makeup, picked him up.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Aleksey V. Nepomuk

He hears about Kuh's divine version of his 'Love's Divine'

It was Heidi Klum, of course, being a very chic mom this afternoon while her husband was holding one-on-one interviews downstairs in the villa's living room. Aside from the Victoria's Secret catwalk and the "Project Runway" set, she'd looked surprisingly stylish.

Add singer to the German model's credentials. In "Sparrow," Seal's first studio album in four years, she sings with her husband in "Wedding Day," which he wrote on the morning they were married in 2005. The song is bound to be an instant staple among couples and at weddings and anniversary parties. "I hear her sing to the house all the time," said the Grammy-winning songwriter, who was slumped on a sofa, his boots tied but up on the coffee table. "She is a natural. I am so proud that she is able to do that."

"Did you watch Oprah?" asked the man whose most popular song is "Kiss from a Rose," the Oscar song from "Batman Forever." He replied that we did not watch the episode where he and Heidi greeted 90 overjoyed fans that all the news stories highlighted the part where his wife told the world about seeing his "package" for the first time. "I will tell my wife," he said with a laugh. "That is crazy."

For those who missed this scintillating moment on "The Oprah Winfrey Show's" last stop, here was what Heidi reportedly said about seeing Seal in shorts: "He just came in from the gym and I was sitting there, and I was like, 'Wow.' And I pretty much saw everything. The whole package."

When we inquired if he was embarrassed, Seal smiled and answered, "She says embarrassing things all the time."

If Heidi can sing, what about his kids? "Our son who is only 2 years old knows every word to this album," the father proudly

MAS/IS

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GALLERIA

1 ENCHANTED - THX
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ANIMAHENASYON
4 HITMAN
5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
7 GREEN PARADISE
8 THE NANNY DIARIES
9 ENCHANTED
10 BEOWULF

A SHOWCASE OF UNIQUELY FILIPINO PINOY ANIMATION

ERMITA

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 Indefine: TRIBU
3 ENCHANTED
4 GREEN PARADISE
5 BEOWULF
6 THE NANNY DIARIES
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 GAME PLAN
9 ENCHANTED
10 HITMAN

METRO EAST

1 BOOGEYMAN 2
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 ENCHANTED
5 GAME PLAN
LIONS FOR LAMBS
6 BEOWULF
7 HITMAN
8 GREEN PARADISE

NOVALICHES

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 ENCHANTED
4 HITMAN

PIONEER

1 BEOWULF
2 HITMAN
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED

STA. ROSA

LIPA

1 BEOWULF
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 GREEN PARADISE
4 ENCHANTED
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 GHOST SON
4 GREEN PARADISE
5 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

DASMARINAS

IMUS

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED
5 GREEN PARADISE
1 GREEN PARADISE
2 BEOWULF
3 HITMAN
4 ENCHANTED
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 GAME PLAN

ANGELES

TARLAC

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ENCHANTED
4 HITMAN
1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT ANIT
3 RENDITION

STARMILLS

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 GREEN PARADISE
4 GHOST SON
5 HITMAN
6 BEOWULF

BACOLOD

ILOILO

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 Indefine: PAIN THINGS
4 BEOWULF
5 BALLS OF FURY
6 GHOST SON
1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 A MAIL FOR RENT
4 ENCHANTED
5 LUST CAUTION
6 GHOST SON

Seal laughs...

From page 1

shared. "He sings it. He can't speak yet but he sings it. Incredible, I tell you." That's Henry Quiaoit Adaucela Sealfon. The boy who was charming journalists especially as one of the villa's two heartthrobs is Johan Henry Quiaoit Adaucela Sealfon. Their father's real name is just as idiosyncratic: Seal Henry Quiaoit Olsenido Adaucela Sealfon. The last one is his last name.

The couple has a daughter, Helene, 3, Heidi's child from a previous relationship. Seal serves as their son-in-law...for unlike Chris his "princess."

Breaking barriers

Seal and Heidi are among the most popular and glamorous mixed-race couples in Hollywood. When he was told that Halle Berry, who plays a woman married to David Duchovny in "Things We Lost in the Fire," hopes their somewhat mixed-race couples would be the norm, not the exception, in films, the London-born artist said, "Yes, I agree. I am glad she said that. The reality is that there are still people who...make an issue or point about mixed-race couples. But I think those barriers are being broken down. People are beginning to be less concerned with colors."

Seal's "Systems" was produced by Stuart Price, whose credit includes Madonna's "Confessions On a Dance Floor," it's full of spacey music, just like his eponymous-titled debut album. The album is being hailed as Seal's most successful album in years, the first he became an international pop star. Seal was a hot name in UK's night club and rave scene.

He clarified that the back-to-his-roots tag of "System" was more because he "went back to the guitar." He sees two of his early hits, "Killer" (with techno artist Adamski) and "Crazy" as genre.

His fame was fired 15 years ago, before the three Grammy awards and millions of albums sold? "I had never had," he responded with a chuckle. "But I still have the zest and passion for music—it's stronger than ever."

He confirmed what he told us in a press conference for the WBR health movie, "The Pursuit of Happyness" (he wrote the theme song, "It Matches My Story")—that he still composes at night when their LA home is quiet.

We shared with him that we better appreciated his song, "Love's Divine," when we heard a Filipina singer (Irish Lesleeman, who's a hotel's sing that Seal had as her opening number in an LA concert a few years ago. From then on, every time we heard that Seal song on the radio, we paid more attention to it.

The muse

Rain opened our ears to the songy themes of faith and inspiration. Since then, we've always wondered about Seal's muse for the song. He offered it to us: "It's about somebody who is searching and one time he said his companions were caught in a car accident—they had everything that they needed even which is love. They had a religious experience."

He hopes he hears Rain's version someday, we said to Seal. He asked for the spelling of her name. "Kali Lesleeman," he said several times, seemingly trying to memorize the name. "It is always good when somebody sings your song," Seal stated.

So what's next for him? "I'll prepare for the next album as it won't take five years again before I come up with a new one," he vowed with a laugh.

As we drove away from the villa and turned on the radio, guess which song came on? "Love's Divine," of course.

I recall the colors, the [illegible] of vanquish, [illegible] his eyes and read his blog. "The Popular Report," in search, quite like [illegible] eyes my readers [illegible].

FLYING SHREK
A Shrek balloon is pulled through Columbus Circle during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade on Thursday in New York.
AP

FEEDBACK

Best News Program?

FROM Florian A. Alfaro (bitbentayo@..., University of the Philippines):

The Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) has had some history and credibility in their annual awards given to excellence in media in many categories. But in this year's award for "Best News Program" given to "24-Oras," one wonders if the bar of the CMMA has fallen to mediocrity.

"24-Oras" introduces its anchors as if they are not news reporters, but newsmakers... "Ismaschan," "Gumtchan," "Jenaphabet" webaris," "Saging panos." Have you ever seen Jim Rather introduced profusely as Tom Brokaw described on the News?

Of its 60 minutes total running time, only 26 minutes are actually left after all the ads. Take away 22 percent (18 minutes) to "Chika Minute," which isn't news unless you're a reporter for which interesting whom or what is peggy. (At least GMA 7 is honest in introducing the reporters as "Susunod si Pia Guanio" but which is completely negated by putting this as integral to "24-Oras").

Take away another 22 percent (18 minutes) of "Man in 24," usually crime stories showing footage of search victims confirming their perpetrators, shouting and slapping; end of news.

And do you know how much of "24-Oras" is devoted to international news? When the Myanmar crisis was breaking and CNN was devoting more than 5 minutes of air time on this story (09/26/07), what was the only international story in "24-Oras" for less than a minute? A video capable of more flexible movement! This leaves 24 minutes for real news, which of course includes the core of the "Kapuso Tonite" and all the other introductions.

Does this deserve a "Best News Program" award? GMA's own news talks program (1PM-SBS) is worse. But that is another story.

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GARDEN PARADISE

SUPERBAD

ARANETA COLISEUM

PBA GAMES

AKON - LIVE IN MANILA

CNN virtual world

CNN WORLDWIDE has announced the opening of a hub within Second Life, a Internet-based three-dimensional virtual world.

Just as CNN asks its audiences to submit iReports—user-generated content submitted from cell phones, computers, cameras and other equipment for broadcast and online reports—the network invites the residents of Second Life to share their own "SL iReports" about events occurring within the virtual world.

"The thing we most hope to gain by hosting a CNN presence in Second Life is to learn about virtual worlds and understand what issues to most interesting and valuable to their residents," said Susan Grant, executive vice president of CNN News Services.

When Second Life residents observe an in-world event, they can take snapshots, shoot video, or write a report about the event and submit to CNN with a click.

Submissions selected by CNN iReport producers will go back into Second Life as SL iReports for residents to view throughout the virtual world.

SL iReports may also be viewed and discussed in the real world at CNN.com/SLiReport blog at www.CNN.com/technology, where users are invited to share comments and subscribe to daily e-mail updates sent via Real Simple Syndication (RSS).

QUEEN MUSICAL

MEMBERS of the British rock band Queen, Brian May, right, and Roger Taylor address the media on Thursday in Vienna, where they are promoting the Austrian run of the musical "We Will Rock You."

AP

CHEER FACTOR

Citizen Seagal

MONGOL—STEVEN Seagal sampled dawg soup and prayed at a Buddhist shrine during a visit to a poor region in southern Russia on Tuesday.

The action movie star was invited to Kalmykia by its quixotic president, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov.

During the trip, Seagal was obliged to play some Zen—Ilyumzhinov's favorite game.

The millionaire leader is famous for backing chess' world governing body, suppressing local political opposition and claiming he has communication with aliens.

He made Seagal an honorary Kalmykian.

AP

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 ENCHANTED	2 HITMAN	3 BEOWULF	4 ONE MORE CHANCE			
GLORIETTA 4	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 BEOWULF	3 HITMAN	4 THE NANNY DIARIES: ONE MORE CHANCE	5 ENCHANTED	6 ENCHANTED	7 THE GAMEPLAN
GREENBELT 1	1 HITMAN	2 ENCHANTED					
GREENBELT 3	1 HITMAN	2 ENCHANTED					
	3 ENCHANTED	4 SUPERBAD	5 BEOWULF				
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 ENCHANTED	2 HITMAN					
	3 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 ENCHANTED	5 BEOWULF				
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 ENCHANTED	2 HITMAN	3 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 BEOWULF			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 BEOWULF					
	3 THE NANNY DIARIES	4 HITMAN	5 ENCHANTED				
TRINOMA	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 THE GAMEPLAN	3 HITMAN	4 BEOWULF			
	5 THE NANNY DIARIES: ONE MORE CHANCE	6 ENCHANTED	7 ENCHANTED				

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — Sounds of Christmas: Christmas Chorale; feat. Phil. Jesuit Community; November 24, 4pm, Glorietta 4 Park

Greenbelt — Holiday Choir Concert; November 24 & Dec. 2 4pm, Greenbelt 3 Park

Alabang Town Center — Rehearsal The Musical; November 23 to 25, 11am, 3pm & 6pm, Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu — Metrobank Kid Event; November 24 to 25, Activity Center, Paseo and Rotunda Area

Market! Market! — Lifestyle and Vanity Outlet Sale; November 19 to 23, Activity Center

Trinoma — Repertory Philippines presents FIGARO GA DIN THE ROOF; November 15 - December 16, 2007; For inquiries, pls. call 887-4799 or email atasa@repertory-philippines.com

Ayala Museum — WATER: THE MEDIUM by Arsenio Sayco; November 24 to January 13, 2008; Ground Floor Gallery; For more info, pls. call 757-1715 to 17 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

Tri-Noma — Rhythm Academy: Jazz Fundamentals with the Acquaintmen Lyrics; December 9, 6pm, Activity Center

Rhythm Academy: Pops Fernandez and The JPP Charitable and Receptive; December 10, 6pm, Activity Center

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PS – 56.72%
MB – 6.72%

Total Urban Philippines/ Nationwide
PDI – 54.25%
MB – 46.85%
PS – 42.29%

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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